Bomb explodes near Israeli mission

BANGKOK (R) — An explosive device went off Sunday about three metres from the Israeli embassy in Bangkok without causing injuries or damage. A police bomb squad official told reporters at the scene they suspected plastic explosive was used but did not yet know how it was detonated. Police said no one had so far claimed responsibility for the blast. In a telephone interview from Bangkok to Israeli state radio, Ambassador Yitzhak Navon said the device exploded about 12 metres from the embassy building. "It was a small charge... there was no damage to the embassy and all the Israelis are all right," he said. Mr. Navon said he had no idea who was responsible for the explosion, the second near the embassy in 18 months.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر باللغة الانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Whitehead leaves Jeddah after talks

JEDDAH (AP) — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead left here Sunday for Morocco after a one-day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he held a session of talks with King Fahd. The Saudi Press Agency said without elaboration at the session was attended by Crown Prince Abdullah. Mr. Whitehead's visit here was part of a "get-acquainted" Mideast swing, which took him to Jordan, Egypt and Israel. Arab diplomatic sources here said the U.S. official, apart from the familiarisation purpose of the trip, also reviewed the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Specifically, they said, Mr. Whitehead wanted to assess chances of success for the current joint bid for peace by Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The same sources said that Prince Abdullah defined anew to Mr. Whitehead the Arab position on the eventuality of Middle East peace.

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Spanish foreign minister in Rabat

RABAT (R) — Newly-appointed Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez arrived here Sunday for talks on Spanish-Moroccan cooperation, diplomatic sources said. They said the choice of Morocco for his first major overseas visit since succeeding Fernando Moran as foreign minister last month underlined Rabat's importance to Madrid. The two countries are geographically close but relations between them are often touchy because of Moroccan claims over Ceuta and Melilla, Spain's last footholds in Africa.

Iranians shout slogans in Medina

NICOSIA (AP) — Thousands of Iranian pilgrims marched in the streets of the Saudi city of Medina last Friday shouting slogans against the United States, the Soviet Union and Israel, IRNA, the official Iranian news agency, reported. The agency, monitored here, said in a dispatch from Tehran Sunday that Hojatoleslam Mehdi Karrubi, the head of the Iranian pilgrimage delegation, called on the demonstrators to turn the annual pilgrimage into a "volcano against the oppressors." There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia, and it was not clear whether any clashes occurred with the Saudi security forces.

S. African mourners kill policeman

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN, South Africa (R) — A man who apparently belonged to a black tribal homeland police force was stoned and burned to death Sunday at the funeral of a murdered South African lawyer, eyewitnesses said. They told Reuters the incident occurred as thousands of mourners and anti-apartheid activists attended the funeral of black human rights activist Victoria Mxenge. (See page 8)

Belfast stages pro-IRA rally

BELFAST (R) — Thousands of Republicans, including a large party of Americans, marched through Belfast Sunday in the climax to a tense week of anniversaries in troubled Northern Ireland. The rally organised by Sinn Fein, political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla group, marked the anniversary of internment without trial for Republican activists, introduced in 1971 and scrapped four years later. Heavy security was imposed as about 5,000 people marched along the solidly Republican Falls Road, with police and British troops blocking every street leading into it and helicopters hovering overhead.

Yugoslav president begins Libya visit

TRIPOLI (AP) — Yugoslav President Radovan Vlajkovic arrived Sunday for a three-day visit to discuss international issues and bilateral cooperation, the official Libya news agency JANA reported. It said Mr. Vlajkovic and his delegation were met at Tripoli's airport by Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi and other top Libyan officials.

INSIDE

* No place in Lebanon to hide from violence, page 2
* Heart transplant patient in 'excellent condition,' page 3
* Tunisia raises bread prices amid mixed economic outlook, page 4
* When a catastrophe programme flickers, page 5
* Lendl, McEnroe to contest Stratton Grand Prix title, page 6
* Japan overrides U.S. bond markets, page 7
* Gandhi predicts sporadic terrorist attacks, page 8

Industrial festival commemorates King's ascension to throne

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Sunday marked the 33rd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne with national celebrations including the opening of an industrial exhibition in Amman.

A number of Arab and friendly heads of state sent cables of good wishes to the King on the occasion.

In their cables, the leaders wished King Hussein further success in leading the Jordanian people towards progress and prosperity.

The leaders included King Hassan II of Morocco, Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman, United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq of Pakistan, French President Francois Mitterrand and Sooth Korean President Chun Doo Hwan.

Regent congratulates

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a message of congratulations to the King, who is currently on a visit to Spain. The Regent reaffirmed the support for and allegiance to the King of the people of Jordan.

"I choose the opportunity of your accession to the throne to send you the deepest love and affection from me and from all members of the Jordanian family who pray to God Almighty to keep you leader of Jordan's march and guardian of its unity, and to guide you in all what you mean to achieve for the nation and especially Palestine that occupies all your thoughts," the message said.

"The anniversary of your accession to the throne is the anniversary of your accession to the millions of hearts of the Jordanian family and the hearts of millions of your Arab Nation who know Your Majesty's efforts and Jihad and who appreciate your sincerity in defending their interests and their rights. Their eyes look onto you and their hopes are hanging to you — so go with God's blesses, because He won't ever fail you... and you will always be the leader who stands up to his family and nations aspirations. Your anniversaries will always bring joys for your nation — joys from which the nation will draw its hopes and strengths. God bless and safeguard you..." the message said.

To mark the occasion of the anniversary, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher, deputising for King Hussein, patronised the opening of an industrial exhibition aimed at highlighting Jordanian industries.

The exhibition, organised for the second year running by the Arabic-language magazine Al Mustahlik in cooperation with the Housing Bank, includes a wide range of locally-manufactured industrial products.

Sunday's events started with a procession of decorated vehicles through Amman streets starting from the Palace of Culture at the Al Hussein Sports City and proceeded to the headquarters of the Amman Development Corporation in downtown where the industrial festival was inaugurated by Dr. Muasher. The rally was accompanied by the Armed Forces Band.

The organisers presented shields for a number of people who contributed to the industrial movement in the Kingdom. The shields were handed over by Dr. Muasher. A special shield was also presented to King Hussein. The minister of industry received it on behalf of the King.

Another shield was presented to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and was received by Dr. Akram Karmoul, director of the ministry's Industrial Department.

Others honoured by the organisers included the presidents of the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Industry, Civil Service Consumers Corporation and the Military Consumers Corporation, Housing Bank Director General Zuheir Khouri, Amman Development Corporation Director General Sami Rasheed and Civil Defence Director General Major-General Khaled Tarawneh.

CULT FIRE AND DEATH: Rodriges Maneja, 38, writhes in pain after he set himself on fire Saturday before a stunned crowd at a public plaza in Cebu City in central Philippines saying his "God Elohim" will protect him. The body of Maneja, who said he would return to life in four hours, was taken to a funeral parlour by police when the fourth hour passed. He was buried Sunday. Maneja used to preach a cult called "Kabal a Masiyac" (AP wirephoto)

Beirut gunmen stage 3½-hour mass kidnapping of travellers

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Armed Lebanese men, demanding the release of a relative, allegedly held by rival factions, kidnapped at least 65 travellers on Beirut's airport highway on Sunday, but freed them later amid heavy factional fighting.

Fifty of the travellers were aboard an airport shuttle bus. None of the travellers, who were heading for the airport, when they were abducted, was harmed, officials of Middle East Airlines (MEA) reported.

Police said 15 others kidnapped in cars on the highway were later released unharmed. Most of the kidnapped were Christians.

The seizure was the biggest mass kidnapping in Beirut for several months.

But police said six people were killed and 19 wounded in Sunday's day-long artillery, rocket and mortar exchanges along Beirut's dividing green line.

The casualties raised the known toll since early Saturday to at least 15 dead and 77 wounded along the line that splits the capital into mostly Christian and mainly Muslim sectors.

Shells also crashed into residential districts deep inside east and west Beirut, in the worst fighting in recent weeks.

Shells also exploded near President Amin Gemayel's government palace in the suburb of Baabda, and around the Defence Ministry and residence of U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew in nearby Yarze, both east of Beirut. No casualties were reported.

Mr. Gemayel's palace was hit by two rockets Friday night, but police said none hit the hilltop complex Sunday. Mr. Gemayel, 43, is staying at his summer residence in Bikfaya, northeast of Beirut.

Police said the kidnapped travellers, riding in an MEA bus in convoy with at least four cars, were stopped at a mobile militia checkpoint on the airport highway in Beirut's Shi'ite-populated southern suburbs.

MEA Chairman Selim Salam told Reuters the passengers were freed unharmed from hideouts near Beirut airport at about 15.30 (12.30 GMT) after he made intensive contacts "with the people concerned."

The gunmen were seeking the release of Mustapha Hamadeh, a Shi'ite held by militiamen in east Beirut, Mr. Salam said.

"I don't know whether he has been released. But we got a call from the gunmen to collect our passengers at around 14.40 (1130 GMT) and we eventually got them free an hour later," he added.

Mubarak launches scathing attack on Arabs

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday he was saddened by what he called the inability of Arab leaders to take any positive action at their summit in Morocco last week.

Mr. Mubarak commented on the summit, which ended on Friday, in remarks to reporters as he toured a youth camp in the Nile Delta. The remarks were carried by the Middle East News Agency (MENA).

"I am sorry about the present Arab situation and the absence of any cohesion or cooperation," he said when asked about the results of the summit.

"There has been no action (at the summit) at all for the benefit of the Arabs generally," he added.

He described the 40-year-old Arab League as "ineffective in its present form."

"Situation in the Arab League grieves me — not because I am not a member of it but because of the general Arab position which has great potential and could have achieved a lot," he said.

Egypt's league membership was suspended in 1979 in reprisal for its separate treaty with Israel, the first between an Arab country and the Jewish state.

Mr. Mubarak said he did not expect reconciliation committees set up by the summit to achieve any results.

The summit created committees to try to ease Syria's conflicts with Jordan and Iraq and Libya's friction with Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The appearance of the Arab leaders at the recent summit is regrettable..." Mr. Mubarak told reporters. "Each attacks the other and works for his own interests and to hell with the Arabs' general interests."

By contrast, he said, African leaders at their last summit in Addis Ababa showed they were keen on unity and the preservation of their organisation.

"None worked towards the destruction of the organisation and they all care about its continuation as they care about their own lives," he said.

"But the Arabs want to destroy each other... I am really sad about the Arab League, whose membership gives me no honour, because it is now lying in a coffin."

"If this Arab position continues it will be the end of the Arab countries," he said. "I don't think they solved anything."

Referring to a section of the conference communique blaming Iran for continuation of the Gulf war with Iraq, Mr. Mubarak said: "We don't need slogans to solve this problem. Practical thinking and action are needed."

He said he had not asked any Arab leaders to seek an end to Egypt's suspension from the Arab League.

"Egypt has its dignity," he said. "We do not talk with anybody on this issue."

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday he saw no sensational change in Middle East attitudes emerging from the summit in Casablanca.

"I do not see any sensational change," Mr. Peres told the World Union of Jewish Students.

Mr. Peres, voicing Israel's first reaction to the summit, said a difficult road still lay ahead before peace talks could begin.

But he pledged that Israel would "listen to every promising note, any constructive announcement. It is our duty."

Mr. Peres made no specific reference to the resolutions adopted at Casablanca but he repeated Israel's contention that the PLO was the "main obstacle" to opening peace talks.

"I believe King Hussein is really interested in reaching a peaceful agreement and resolving outstanding problems. I don't believe the PLO is interested in it," Mr. Peres said, answering the students' questions.

Mr. Peres said that the Soviets were showing "a renewed interest" in the Middle East.

Israel court temporarily blocks order to expel Abu Ziad

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli supreme court judge issued a temporary injunction on Sunday blocking for at least three days an order to expel a Palestinian accused of being a senior leader of Palestinian resistance activists, a court spokesman said.

Judge Dov Levine acted on an appeal by Khalil Ali Khalil Abu Ziad, of the occupied West Bank village of Azariyeh near Jerusalem. Abu Ziad challenged the military to indict him instead of deporting him, Israel Radio said.

The court decision gave the government three days to explain their expulsion order, said court spokesman David Bar-Tov.

The deportation order issued last Thursday was the first by Israel since two Palestinian mayors were expelled in May 1980.

Abu Ziad served a 10-year prison term after admitting he joined Palestine Liberation Organisation's Fateh faction.

He was put under town arrest after his release in November 1980. The army accused him of violating the restrictions of town arrest and said "he continued his hostile activity against Israel."

Meanwhile the army maintained a curfew on the West Bank city of Hebron, south of Jerusalem, where an American-born Jewish settler was stabbed with a penknife Saturday, a military source said.

The restrictions mean that Hebron's Palestinian population of 60,000 must remain indoors until further notice while soldiers comb the area for suspects.

The attacked settler, from nearby Kiryat Arba, was reported in fair condition in hospital.

The government has adopted a series of measures to counter the wave of anti-Israeli violence in which 10 Israelis have been killed this year, including imprisonment without trial and expulsion.

At least five Palestinians have been detained in the past 10 days without trial.

Other measures taken by the military in the occupied West Bank last week included closure of Al Najah University.

Katyushas land in Israeli 'security zone' in Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Four Katyusha rockets exploded in Israeli-occupied territory in South Lebanon Sunday, Lebanese security sources said.

The rockets landed around three a.m. (2400 GMT) near the town of Marjayoun, headquarters of the main Israeli-backed militia, the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA).

There was no immediate word on casualties or the source of the firing, the sources said.

Resistance attacks have hampered Israeli occupation of a "security zone" it set up in South Lebanon last June.

The sources also said Israeli troops have cut water and electricity to Arnoun, a village where a suicide car bomber attacked an Israeli unit on July 31.

Cars have been banned from the village, about five kilometres from the border, and residents can get water only from designated tankers, the sources said.

The July bombing, in which an unknown number of Israelis were killed, was the first such attack inside the "security zone."

Soviets seek European role as bridge with U.S.

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow wants West Europe to act as a bridge with Washington in the run-up to November's summit in Geneva between President Reagan and Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, according to a top Soviet commentator.

Writing this weekend in the government daily Izvestia, Alexander Bovin denied Western charges that Soviet diplomatic moves were aimed at splitting European countries from the United States in the NATO alliance.

"We do not want to start a quarrel among the allies — they quarrel without us anyway," Bovin wrote under the headline "The long run-up to Geneva."

"We want our European neighbours to use their transatlantic influence to, so to speak, raise the political culture of their overseas ally."

Bovin questioned Washington's political will to reach compromises at the summit, scheduled for November 19-20. But his article took an unusually moderate and optimistic tone.

The commentator made clear Moscow was seeking improvements in U.S.-Soviet ties on a wide range of international topics at the summit, and not just on disarmament.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs Roxanne Ridgway said last week that the focus of the summit would be on arms control.

Bovin regretted Washington's refusal to join Moscow's five-month freeze on nuclear test explosions but devoted most of his remarks to international problems.

He singled out U.S. support for anti-communist guerrillas in Afghanistan and Kampuchea, accusing the United States of taking on the role of international gendarme.

"It is worth thinking about this on the eve of Geneva if there is a desire not to leave empty-handed," he said.

He also rejected the Western contention that Soviet diplomacy focused only on superpower relations by underlining Soviet concerns with Europe, China and Japan.

He noted that Mr. Gorbachev, in his first trip to a Western country since he rose to the summit of Kremlin power in March, would visit France in October — a move widely seen as a blandishment to Western Europe.

The commentator said an upswing in U.S.-Soviet ties would help solve international problems.

"It is from this point of view that the Soviet Union is looking at the forthcoming summit in Geneva."

A report in the Washington Post said Sunday the agenda for the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in November has already been agreed upon. The Post said the two leaders will meet for a total of nine hours in two days. The first day's discussions will focus on human rights and bilateral relations, the report said. The second session of the summit will deal with arms control and related issues, the Post said.

See editorial comment on page 4

100 treated after leak at U.S. plant of Union Carbide

INSTITUTE, West Virginia (AP) — A chemical derived from methyl isocyanate leaked from a Union Carbide plant Sunday, injuring six employees and sending 100 residents to an emergency treatment centre.

Thousands of residents were trapped indoors until hazardous fumes dissipated two hours later.

The chemical leaked from the plant's methyl isocyanate unit shortly before 10 a.m. (1400 GMT) when a valve failed, said Carbide spokesman Dick Henderson. Henderson said the leaking chemical was made from MIC — the deadly pesticide ingredient involved in the disastrous Bhopal, India, gas leak — but did not contain any MIC itself.

Henderson said the chemical is an "eye and lung irritant" and police said residents exposed to the fumes reported burning eyes, nausea and shortness of breath.

Henderson insisted that "there never was a threat to the community," but Kanawha County officials declared an emergency when the leak was reported. They advised the 3,100 residents of Institute to stay indoors and told those outside to cover their eyes and mouths and seek shelter.

The emergency declaration was terminated shortly before noon (1600 GMT).

At least 100 people were treated at a makeshift emergency medical centre set up outside the sprawling plant, and some were then taken to local hospitals by a fleet of 20 ambulances.

Michael Roark, the mayor of nearby Charleston, said many people were taken to hospital from their homes in addition to those transferred from the emergency centre.

"The total number of those injured is in excess of 100," Mr. Roark said.

Egypt says new Libyan assassination plot foiled

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian security authorities have foiled a Libyan plot to assassinate a Libyan political refugee living in Egypt, the state-run Middle East News Agency, MENA said Sunday.

It said the target of the attempt was Ghaith Saed Al Mahrouk, who owns a hotel in Egypt. It gave no details of his background and did not say when or why he was granted asylum here.

It said Mr. Mabrouk was among several Libyan political refugees in Egypt whom the Libyan regime of Muammar Qadhafi wanted to liquidate. It did not name the other intended targets.

Last November, Egyptian authorities said they thwarted a Libyan attempt to assassinate former Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Al Bakoush, a political refugee in Egypt since 1978. Two Britons and two Maltese nationals were arrested then but were subsequently released and deported without an official explanation.

The alleged attempt against Mr. Bakoush followed Egyptian claims that Libya was responsible for a series of mine explosions in the Suez Gulf and Red Sea last summer which caused damage to some 20 ships.

Egypt also blamed Libya for an abortive attempt to blow up the U.S. embassy in Cairo with a booby-trapped vehicle.

President Hosni Mubarak, in a veiled warning to Libya without naming it, said in a speech on Saturday that Egypt would have a merciless and violent response to any external attempt to undermine its security.

The Egyptian agency said four Egyptians had been recruited by Libyan intelligence to kill Mr. Mabrouk. It said all four were arrested outside Mr. Mabrouk's home after midnight on Aug. 6 "as they prepared to carry out the slaying."

Tunisia deplores expulsion of its nationals from Libya

RAS JEDIR, Tunisia (R) — Tunisia on Sunday denounced Libya's expulsion of thousands of Tunisian immigrant workers, many of whom say they were held in makeshift detention centres for up to a week and forced to leave their life savings behind.

Social Affairs Minister Mohammad Ennaceur told reporters at this border post on the Tunisian-Libyan frontier that some 7,300 Tunisians had been expelled in recent months.

Officials said some 5,000 more out of a total of about 80,000 Tunisian workers in Libya have been told to leave.

Mr. Ennaceur, who listened to first-hand accounts of mass expulsions here and watched families arrive in precariously overladen trucks humping along the frontier road, told Reuters:

"It's one thing if people can no longer work, that there is unemployment, but that people can be treated in this way and with such brutality is completely unexpected."

The expulsions began as a trickle early this year and gathered pace when Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi ordered out any migrant worker who refused to take on "Arab (Libyan) nationality."

Such expulsions have occurred in the past during times of tension between the two North African countries such as in 1980, when 41 people were killed in what Tunisia said was a Libyan-inspired attack on the southern Tunisian town of Gafsa.

About 100 or so people crowded around the customs building at Ras Jedir on Sunday, sitting beside piles of mattresses, saucepans and bulging suitcases. They frequently arrived in the ubiquitous trucks with wooden-slatted sides.

Lebanese gunmen free Kuwait embassy official

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen Sunday released a Kuwaiti embassy diplomat they kidnapped in Muslim-controlled west Beirut one month ago.

Wajed Ahmad Doumani, a 55-year-old Lebanese, told Reuters he arrived at his west Beirut home on foot in the early hours after being driven to a nearby street by his captors.

"I was very well treated, within a sound Islamic context," Mr. Doumani said. He said he had no idea where he was held and declined to speculate on the identity of his abductors.

Mr. Doumani is the embassy's press counsellor and the seventh diplomat to have been kidnapped in Lebanon in two years.

Three are still missing, their abductions claimed by a shadowy Muslim group called "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) that demands Kuwait free 17 people jailed for bombings in the Gulf state in 1983.

Well-known to Lebanese journalists, Mr. Doumani was dragged from his car in west Beirut by gunmen on July 11. There was no public claim of responsibility from his captors.

His family at the time told reporters they feared he had been mistaken for a Kuwaiti national and Beirut press reports speculated he had been held by relatives of the jailed men.

The release of Mr. Doumani follows those of two other kidnap victims working for foreign organisations.

Last Thursday gunmen in Beirut freed Shaqib Hmaidan, a senior Lebanese employee of the American television network ABC after holding him captive for five days.

On the same day gunmen in the South freed Robert Burkholder, a Canadian employed by a North-American based aid organisation, after questioning for 14 hours.

Mr. Doumani's abduction coincided with two bomb attacks on restaurants in Kuwait that killed ten people and wounded more than 80.

Responsibility was claimed by a group called "the Arab Revolutionary Brigades Organisation" that accused a number of Kuwaiti officials of corruption.

Diplomats and foreigners have been a frequent target for kidnappers in Lebanon. More than 20 foreigners have been abducted, and seven Americans, four Frenchmen, a Briton and an Iranian are still missing.

Many of the abductions have been claimed by Islamic Jihad. The group claimed the kidnapping in January 1984 of the consul at the Saudi Arabian embassy, Hussein Farrash. He was freed last May.

Meanwhile Kuwaiti newspaper reported Sunday that a package of new security measures for Kuwait costing 75 million dinars ($247.5 million) has been recommended by a key national assembly committee.

They quoted the chairman of the Defence and Interior Affairs Committee Hadi Hayef Al Huweila as saying proposals included tighter controls at overland border checkpoints, ports, the international airport and strategic installations.

The recommendations, to be put to the full assembly when it returns from its summer break, also include incentives to encourage young people join the police and armed forces.

Mr. Huweila was quoted as saying steps taken in response to two restaurant bombings last month, which killed 10 people, had included withdrawal of some 1,500 business licences. The firms involved were making no contribution to the country, he said.

He added that there was a need to maintain a balance between Kuwaitis, who make up only 40 per cent of the population of 1.7 million, and expatriate workers from 115 countries.

A senior Kuwaiti official said recently that nearly 4,000 people had been deported since the bombings, and many more would follow.

TARAWNEH RECEIVES AWARD: Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher presents an award to Civil Defence Director Maj.-Gen. Khaled Tarawneh in appreciation of Gen. Tarawneh's contribution to the industrial sector. The award was presented at the opening of an industrial exhibition on Sunday to commemorate the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. Also present is the chief organiser of the exhibition, Ahmad Isam Odeh (Petra photo)

Peres says Israel must maintain ties with South Africa

TEL AVIV (AP) — The leader of South Africa's largest black tribe called on Israel on Sunday to pressure his country to end apartheid. But premier Shimon Peres said Israel would not sever ties out of concern for South African Jews.

Mangosutho Buthelezi, head of the six-million member Zulu tribe, called on Foreign Minister R.F. Botha "to clearly and quickly make a statement regarding power sharing."

Mr. Botha, who just returned from talks in Vienna, Austria, with U.S. and other Western officials, is expected to offer some concessions this week to the 24 million voteless black majority.

At least 53 people have been killed in fighting in Durban's black and Indian townships in South Africa's worst anti-apartheid violence in nearly a year.

The current wave of violence is "justified because it is caused by apartheid, but it is very distressing because it is blacks fighting blacks," Mr. Buthelezi told reporters at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv.

Israel radio said Mr. Buthelezi also urged Israel to "put diplomatic pressure on South Africa to end apartheid policies."

Mr. Buthelezi, 56, is considered a moderate, and opposes economic sanctions against the white supremacist regime.

He will be in Israel until Aug. 22, and is scheduled to meet Mr. Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Monday.

Both Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir have spoken out against apartheid but have fallen short of advocating sanctions against South Africa.

Mr. Peres, speaking Saturday night to an audience of the World Union of Jewish Students, defended Israel's ties with the white supremacist regime against mounting criticism by left-wing circles.

"We have an important Jewish community in South Africa.... as a matter of fact we like them so much that we'd like to see all of them here. Even because of this reason, I believe diplomatic relations are important," Mr. Peres said.

South Africa's 120,000-member Jewish community is among the wealthiest Israel supporters and important contributors to the Jewish state.

Israel also does millions of dollars of trade every year with South Africa.

Liberal cabinet ministers have criticised Israel's failure to join other Western countries in outright condemnation of South Africa's recent heavy-hand against black communities.

The Al Hamishmar daily newspaper, an organ of the Socialist Mapam Party, called on the government in an editorial Sunday to sever ties with South Africa. "Israel has many involvements in South Africa, and these ties must be cut and fast," the newspaper said.

Israelis denounce racism, fascism

By Hamadeh Faraneh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tens of intellectuals, artists, journalists, academitians and social leaders in Israel have signed a statement in which they strongly denounced racism and fascism which have been escalating in Israel lately.

The statement was signed by Jews and Arabs living in Israel. It was released following the Afula events in which fundamentalist Jews carried a number of attacks on Arabs after the killing of two Jewish teachers by two young Arabs.

The statement said: "We strongly denounce the killings lately of innocent people and we denounce the mounting racial wave, that uses ordinary incidents (the killing of the two teachers) as a pretext for mass deportation, mass punishment, antagonisation and violence against Arabs."

The statement went on to say: "The ugly crimes are a result of the continued occupation since 1967. Racism aims at oppressing people, and crimes do not enhance peace, end the conflict or end occupation. Deportation of Palestinians and destruction of Palestinian refugee camps will only deepen the state of hostility between the two peoples."

The statement concluded: "Racism and incitement against Arabs only divert people's attention from economic and social crisis that plague the Israeli society and threatens us with disaster."

Meanwhile, local authorities and Arab leaders in northern Palestine held a meeting during which they called for an Arab-Jewish march to be held on Aug. 30, at the town of Um Al Fahem.

The march aims to express their protest against all attempts that create tension between Arabs and Jews and to force an end to all symptoms of racism and fascism against Arab inhabitants.

Fadlallah doubts Lebanese peace chances

BEIRUT (R) — An influential Shi'ite Muslim cleric, Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, said in an interview he doubted that a newly-created opposition front would heal Lebanon's sectarian divisions and bring peace.

Fadlallah, a prominent scholar who has influence with a fundamentalist group known as Hezbollah (Party of God), told Monday Morning magazine that the "National Unity Front" launched last week lacked cohesion.

"Indeed, its members often threaten to wage a war against each other, to the point that regional and non-regional factions have to intervene to prevent war," he was quoted as saying in the latest issue of the magazine, out Monday.

It was unclear if the new group wanted to talk peace or continue the civil war, he said.

The front of Muslims, leftists and independent Christians is led by Druze chieftain Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri.

Tension rose sharply between Druze and Shi'ite militiamen when fighting broke out between Shi'ites and Palestinians in Beirut last May and June. Fadlallah was involved in mediation to end the battle, during which Druze gave refuge to Palestinians.

The cleric said he supported the front's aim of abolishing the sectarian political system, but it was unclear if the front wanted to do it by force or dialogue.

"Does it seriously seek to participate in dialogue, or is it merely grouping various forces to secure victory in a military battle? The picture is certainly not clear yet," he said.

Fadlallah, who has repeatedly said Lebanese must stop fighting each other and turn their weapons against Israel, said sectarianism made each sect consider itself an independent state, closed to outside ideas.

He said that the current sectarian system, under which many senior posts, including the presidency, are allocated to Christians, provided people with false guarantees.

"What sort of guarantee is it that forces the people to flee their country, what guarantee is it if the president must fight tooth and nail to stay in his post?" he asked.

Israeli court puts off Palestinian deportation

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's high court Sunday temporarily forbade the expulsion of an alleged Palestinian commando leader and gave the Defence Ministry three days to explain its deportation decision.

The court said it would rule on the case on Thursday after Jewish lawyer Amnon Zichroni appealed against the ministry's order to expel Khalil Abu Ziad from the West Bank.

Abu Ziad, described by the Israelis as a senior figure in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), completed a 10 year jail term in 1980 for guerrilla activity.

It was the first time in five years that Israel had used deportations to punish alleged anti-Israeli commandos.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters that deportation and other tough security measures had been revived because of an increase in commando attacks on Jewish civilians.

Gen. Amnon Shahak, chief of Central Command, said in issuing the deportation order against Abu Ziad, who is from Azorea, near Bethlehem, that he had engaged in "terrorist and subversive activities."

The army Sunday imposed a curfew and searched for two young attackers who stabbed a Jewish settler Saturday in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Polisario claims killing 210 Moroccans

ALGIERS (R) — Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence of the Western Sahara said Sunday they killed 210 Moroccan soldiers and wounded 445 in 179 attacks during July.

In a communique carried by the official Algerian News Agency, APS, Polisario said its forces had taken three Moroccan troops prisoners last month. The guerrillas said they had also blown up a munitions dump and destroyed large quantities of equipment, including 36 land-rovers, 12 trucks, 21 machine guns, four mortars and three missile launchers.

No hiding place for Palestinians in war-torn Lebanon

By Scheherazade Faramarzi
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Amneh Khalifa has spent three years trekking around Lebanon with the survivors of her family, trying to avoid the fighting that has torn the country. But there is no hiding place.

Her odyssey has taken her full circle — from the 1982 massacre of Palestinians in Beirut's Shatilla refugee camps by Falangists to the battlefield in the same camp in May when it was attacked by Shi'ite Muslim forces.

She lost her husband and two sons in the massacre, in which hundreds of Palestinians and Lebanese Muslims were slaughtered. Her shanty home was wrecked in May's battles.

"I feel like a bird," she said in an interview. "As soon as it builds a nest someone comes and destroys it. But if God gives us another chance, I'll build another nest."

Mrs. Khalifa, mother of eight children who have survived the bloodshed, is 37. Her face is lined and her hands flutter nervously when she speaks.

She shares her tragedy with thousands of other families in a country convulsed by war for a decade. The Palestinians are targets for everyone — Israelis, Shi'ites and Falangists, even their onetime backers, the Syrians.

Mrs. Khalifa is known as Um Hussein, Arabic for "the mother of Hussein," the name of one of her two oldest sons who were butchered with their father the night of Sept. 16, 1982, when Falangist militiamen swept into Shatilla and the neighbouring Sabra camp.

She left her rented house in Shatilla to stay at her brother's home nearby. She also sent one of her children, Salam, now 8 to live with her sister-in-law in South Lebanon.

In September 1983, when government forces and militiamen fought in Beirut, the camps, battered by the Israelis in their 1982 invasion, were hit again.

Um Hussein said she "overheard neighbours saying there will be trouble and the army would move into the camps. They were worried another massacre might take place."

"If I hear there'll be fighting, I lose my nerve. I just want to get out. I've gone through it all and suffered greatly. Three of my men have died."

She took her children South and stayed with relatives in Tyre's Rashidiyeh Camp for five months. Then "we got word that it was quiet in Beirut. So we came back."

She had not been in Beirut for long when she heard "rumours" of army dragnets for Palestinian men. Since she had a 15-year-old boy, Hamed, she took her family to the nearby Palestinian Gaza Hospital and, with 20 other families, hid in the X-ray Department for 15 days.

In April "I heard things were going to be bad in the camp," Um Hussein said.

"I hear people talk on the street or in the shops. I listen to news on the radio and when it isn't good I just run away. I don't even pack. I go as you see me now."

She paid 750 Lebanese pounds ($45), just about all she had, for a taxi to take her to her brother's home in the Nahr Al Bared refugee camp outside the northern port of Tripoli.

They had to make long detours around hostile Falangist territory through the mountains. The trip took more than eight hours.

In Nahr Al Bared, she and her children and 16 members of her brother's family squeezed into two small rooms.

They returned to Beirut a month later so the children could take school examinations — and walked right into a five-week battle when Shi'ite Muslims attacked the camps to smash Palestinian efforts to rebuild the power base they lost in Israel's 1982 invasion.

"We hid in the bathroom when the shooting started," she said. "When it eased up a bit, we went to our neighbours' and spent the night on the floor. This is what God has written for us. We can't do anything about it."

Next morning, she fled with her children, carrying 3-year-old Mohammad. "We ran under shellfire through the alleys to the camp perimetre," she said.

They sheltered for weeks in the basement of a high-rise building controlled by the pro-Palestinian Druse militia with 30 other refugee families from the camps.

When she went back to her house in Shatilla when the fighting ended, it had been burned and looted. Two blackened portraits of her dead sons hung on the walls.

She returned to the refugee centre. There, surrounded by her children, she sits on cardboard on the floor and cooks on a primus stove. The owner of the building has told all the families to get out.

"Where can I go?" Um Hussein asked. "With all these children. I can't go to my brother. It's not fair on him."

She says she can't go back to Shatilla because she can't afford to repair the house. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that aids Palestinian refugees won't help because her house stands outside the UNRWA boundary.

She fears Hamed will be seized by Shi'ite gunmen if she returns to the camp.

Her daughter, Rwideh, 14, and son Hamed are tired of running.

"Where can we run to in the end?" the boy asked.

After three years of misery, Um Hussein is trying to go to Libya, where her parents live. But the family's passports and birth certificates were destroyed in their house.

"I'm trying to get new ones so we can get away for good," she sighed. "My morale is worn out. My life has no stability."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111

MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 ..... Koran
17:20 ..... Cartoons
17:30 ..... Children's Programmes
18:00 ..... The Games of Nations
18:30 Extracts from the Pan-Arab Games
19:00 Programme on the Armed Forces
19:25 ..... Programme Review
19:40 ..... News Programme
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:40 ..... Arabic Series
21:45 ..... Tomorrow's Programmes
22:00 ..... A Documentary on Petra
23:00 ..... News in Arabic
23:10 Religious Programme and signing off

FOREIGN CHANNEL
17:45 French Programme: Mediterranee
19:00 ..... News in French
19:20 ..... Sport Magazine (French)
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Comedy: Who is the Boss
21:00 ..... Canadian Film
21:10 ..... Skin Deep
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 ..... Widows

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW
Tel: 774111-19

07:00 ..... Light Music
07:30 ..... Newsdesk
07:45 ..... Morning Show
10:00 ..... News Summary
10:05 ..... Pop Session
12:00 ..... News Summary
12:05 ..... Pop Session Contd.
13:00 ..... News Summary
13:05 ..... Pop Session Contd.
14:00 ..... News Bulletin
14:10 ..... Instrumentals
14:15 ..... Over a Cup of Tea
15:00 ..... Concert Hour
16:00 ..... News Summary
16:05 ..... Instrumentals
16:30 ..... Old Favourites
17:00 ..... The 15th Century A.H.
17:30 ..... Pop Session
18:00 ..... News Summary
18:05 ..... Sports Round-up
18:15 ..... Special Feature
19:00 ..... Newsdesk
19:30 ..... Date with a Star
20:00 ..... Evening Show
21:00 ..... News Summary
21:05 ..... Evening Show Contd.
21:55 ..... News Summary
22:00 ..... Evening Show Contd.
23:00 ..... News Summary
23:05 ..... Evening Show Contd.
24:00 ..... Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk **07:30** Empire of the Sun **07:45** Hunger **07:55** Reflections **08:00** World News **08:09** Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary **08:30** Letterbox **08:45** Recording of the Week **09:00** Newsdesk **09:30** *The Phoenix of Asia* **10:00** World News **10:09** Twenty-For Hours: News Summary **10:30** Sarah and Company **11:00** World News **11:09** Reflections **11:15** Empire of the Sun **11:30** Pictures **12:00** World News **12:09** British Press Review **12:15** Good Books **12:30** Financial News **12:40** Look Ahead **12:45** Peeble's Choice **13:00** News Summary **13:15** Science in Action **13:30** Music Now **14:00** World News **14:09** News About Britain **14:15** Wives of the Great Composers **14:30** Album Time **15:00** Radio Newsreel **15:15** Brain of Britain 1985 **15:45** Sports Round-up **16:00** World News **16:09** Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary **16:30** Musical Yearbook **17:00** Outlook **17:45** Reading **18:00** Radio Newsreel **18:15** Patrick Martyn's Music Box **18:45** Wines of the Great Composers **19:00** World News **19:09** Commentary **19:15** Portraits of Our Time **19:30** Hunger **19:45** The World Today **20:00** World News **20:09** Book Choice **20:15** A Future for the Past **20:45** Sports Round-up **21:00** Newsdesk **21:30** Evening Class **22:00** Outlook **22:45** Peebles' Choice **23:00** World News **23:09** Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary **23:30** Sports International **24:00** News Summary; Network U.K. **00:15** Sound of the Seventies **00:30** Rock Salad **01:00** World News: The World Today **01:25** Book Choice **01:40** Reflections **01:45** Sports Round-up **02:00** World News **02:09** Commentary **02:15** Portraits of Our Time

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News **07:10** Newsline **07:30** VOA Morning **08:00** News **08:10** Newsline **08:30** VOA Morning **09:00** News **09:10** Newsline **09:30** VOA Morning/ News Summary **10:00** News **10:10** Newsline **10:30** Music USA **19:00** News **19:10** Focus **19:30** Special English News & Features **20:00** News **20:10** Newsline **20:30** Magazine Show **21:00** News **21:10** Focus **21:30** Special English News & Features **22:00** News **22:10** Newsline America **22:30** Music USA **23:00** News & Editorial **23:15** Music USA Jazz **24:00** News **00:10** World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

CIRCUS

* Hungarian circus at Hussein Youth City. 2 performances a day.

* Italian circus. Between 6th and 7th Circle near Jordan Electricity Authority.

TODAY'S EVENTS

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. tel. 661026/7
American Centre 644371
American Centre Library 641520
British Council 636147/8
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181/6
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library ... 637111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mountazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tusdays. Tel. 637169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Ammon Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, 637440.
De L'Enfant Jesus Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678906.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534, 817534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel: 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (International, Iterdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

04:27 ..... Fajr
05:58 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 ..... Dhuhr
16:21 ..... 'Asr
19:23 ..... Maghreb
21:52 ..... 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

10:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)
10:50 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:20 ..... Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
12:20 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
12:30 ..... Istanbul Ankara (TK)
14:05 ..... Cairo (MS)
14:35 ..... Kuwait (KU)
16:10 ..... Jeddah, Medina (SV)
17:15 ..... Baghdad (IA)
18:15 ..... Beirut (MEA)
18:30 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
18:30 ..... New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)
18:50 ..... Bucharest (RJ)
19:00 ..... Bangkok (RJ)
19:55 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
01:25 ..... Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:50 ..... Frankfurt (LH)
07:50 ..... Damascus, Athens (OA)
08:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
08:00 ..... Beirut (MEA)
11:55 ..... Bucharest (RJ)
12:00 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15 ..... Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
13:15 ..... Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)
13:30 ..... Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:00 ..... Malaga (RJ)
14:15 ..... Bahrain (GF)
14:50 ..... Cairo (MS)
15:35 ..... Kuwait (KU)
17:00 ..... Medina, Jeddah (SV)
18:30 ..... Baghdad (IA)
20:00 ..... Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
20:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)
20:40 ..... Dhahran (RJ)
20:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)
21:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)
21:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Banglar Kallon
— Trasat
— Lanka Mahapola
— Alfarabi
— Mont Ventoux
— Tusnad
— Mount Harvard

Amin Kawar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324-9 at your service.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively warm, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Low/high temperature in deg.C.

Amman 21/36
Aqaba 27/39
Deserts 22/40
Jordan Valley 25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 37.5. Humidity readings: Amman 19 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Saturday rates
Local sell/buy rates in fils

Bahraini dinar	1024.3/	1029
Dutch guilder	121.5/	122.5
Egyptian guinea	255/	260
French franc	44.7/	45.1
Iraqi dinar	358.3/	363.3
Japanese yen (for 100)	163/	164.3
Kuwaiti dinar	1281.6/	1286.6
Lebanese lira	23/	24
Omani riyal	1120.6/	1125.6
Qatari riyal	106.2/	106.7
Saudi riyal	106.5/	107
Swedish crown	46.2/	46.6
Swiss franc	165.1/	166.4
Syrian lira	34.4/	35.2
UAE dirham	105.5/	106.6
U.K. sterling pound	520.7/	524.9
U.S. dollar	389/	391.5
W. German mark	136.6/	137.7

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman civil defence 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid .. 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Quweismeh ... 770733
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade ... 198
First aid 630341
Blood bank 778303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 622090-3
Police rescue ... 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 896390/1
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints 771125/8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53330/60

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre ... 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm . 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malkas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845/65
Al-Mushter Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Amy, Marka 891611/15

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hisham Abu Arqoub 893122
Dr. Dawoud Samhouri 778526
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Mreish pharmacy 770910
Firas pharmacy 661912
Khalaf pharmacy 778653
Al Hayaah pharmacy 624636
Fattelah pharmacy 637140
Al Samah pharmacy 636194
Samh pharmacy 771140
TAXIS:
Khaled taxi 623715
Tamer taxi 666417
Taxina taxi 644660
Youth City taxi 663273
Waddah taxi 812454
Jerusalem taxi 639655

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Shari' 273680
Al Bayt pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Karim Al Habashneh 983022
Freij pharmacy ..... (—)
Al Hikma pharmacy ..... (—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19
Radio Jordan 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 666412
Price complaints 661176
Telephone information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower prices in fils per kg.

Apple (local)	220/180	Lemon (yellow)	400/320
Apple (American)	350/300	Mallow	90/50
Banana	300/260	Marrow (large)	150/100
Banana (Mukammar)	250/220	Marrow (small)	260/220
Beans	260/200	Onion (dry)	130/100
Cabbage	140/100	Okra	280/220
Carrot	150/100	Parsley	100/100
Cauliflower	200/160	Peaches	560/500
Cucumber (large)	160/130	Pears (American)	420/350
Cucumber (small)	270/220	Pepper (sweet)	220/180
Eggplant (large)	100/50	Pepper (hot)	220/180
Eggplant (small)	140/100	Potatoes	260/200
Figs (green)	400/300	Radishes	80/50
Garlic (without leaves)	350/300	Sweet Melon	110/70
Grapes	230/180	Tomatoes	100/50
Lemon (green)	280/220	Vine leaves	500/400
		Water Melon	130/80

All schoolboys to wear uniforms from September

AMMAN (J.T.) — School uniforms will be worn by all male students in Jordanian government and private schools as of the coming scholastic year starting in September and the Ministry of Education ensure that the same type of uniform is used by all schools without exception, according to the ministry's secretary general, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

He said that nearly 480,000 male students in Jordan will be expected to wear the same type of uniform now that all obstacles for providing the cloth and preparing the uniforms have been removed.

Only a limited number of schools in Amman Governorate introduced the uniforms as specified by the Ministry of Education in the past scholastic year due to circumstances beyond the ministry's control, but now a plan has been drawn up to make available sufficient amounts of cloth for the uniforms and factories and workshops have been asked to provide the uniforms in sufficient quantities by early September, before the reopening of the schools after the summer holidays, Dr. Arabiyat said.

He said the idea that all students wear the same type of uniform is to try and ensure that all students, regardless of their social background, are treated in the same way and to also curb the tendency of extravagant spending on clothes. Also, the cloth for the uniforms, unlike clothes worn at present by most students, is being manufactured by local factories which encourages domestic industry and saves money, Dr. Arabiyat added.

The application of the new regulations, Dr. Arabiyat said, requires cooperation on the part of the schools, the families and the companies providing the cloth or the ready-made uniforms.

The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Supply and the Amman Chamber of Industry, has worked out a plan to make available enough uniforms for the students, and all factories have been supplied with the required specifications, Dr. Arabiyat pointed out. He said that in fact the Ministry of Education started contacts in March 1984 to make the uniforms available and set up a special committee to follow up the subject. But unforeseen difficulties made it impossible to ask students in various governorates to wear the required uniforms in the past scholastic year, he added.

The ministry's director general of education, Dr. Izzat Jaradat, said in a separate statement that a uniform will cost an average of JD 4.5 to JD 6.5.

MUASHER TOURS EXHIBITION: Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Musher tours an industrial exhibition on Sunday organised on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne (Petra photo)

Heart transplant patient in 'excellent condition'

Recipient conscious, taking food 48 hours after first transplantation in Arab World

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab World's first heart transplant patient Sunday was in a "good condition" 48 hours after the operation and the heart transplant operation was described as "100 per cent successful so far" by a senior medical source at Al Hussein Medical Centre (HMC).

Major-General Da'oud Hanania, director of the Royal Medical Services and chief of the cardiac centre at the HMC, told the Jordan Times "the recipient's general condition is excellent and he has already started a semi-normal diet of chosen food."

"All the patient's physiological parameters are within normal limits, which indicates that the operation can be regarded as 100 per cent successful to date," said Dr. Hanania, who headed a 30-person operating team on Friday night.

He said that heart transplant patients in general now had an 85 per cent chance of surviving for a year and an 80 per cent chance of living five years or more.

"Now we are in the second post-operative day, and the patient is fully awake and talking at ease with no significant complaints or any unusual symptoms," Dr. Hanania said. He said that unusual symptoms following such an operation could be irregular heart beat, pains or loosing consciousness.

Dr. Hanania stated that the recipient, Abdullah Mohammad Khalil, is now being kept under intensive care and added that everything is under control.

In the four-hour operation, Khalil, 23, received the heart of a 26-year-old car crash victim who had been in a state of brain death.

The operation, during which Khalil had been on a heart-lung bypass machine for 80 minutes during the actual heart transplant process, had gone very smoothly, Dr. Hanania said.

Dr. Hanania, who trained in Britain and the United States and who has been performing open heart surgery for more than 15 years, is considered to be one of the most qualified and experienced surgeons in the Middle East.

University to host international conference for Islamic centres

AMMAN (Petra) — An international conference for Islamic cultural centres is due to open at the University of Jordan on Sept. 16 and delegates will discuss a plan for coordination and cooperation among their centres on a wide scale.

Mr. Fayez Rabie, director of the university's Islamic centre, said that the conference, the first of its kind, is designed to help various centres know about one other's achievements and programmes and to enable the delegates to find ways to overcome difficulties that their programmes encounter.

He told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the conference also aims to establish contacts among Muslim youth and to help them exchange visits and organise seminars and conferences to discuss plans for confronting challenges to their culture and their religion.

For four days the delegates will discuss 12 subjects pertaining to the role and activities of Islamic centres, Mr. Rabie said. Other subjects on the agenda include the effect of non-Muslim cultures on Muslim communities in different countries and the prospect of these centres teaching Arabic to Muslim minorities. A statistical study on Islamic minorities in Asia, Australia, the Soviet Union, China, Africa, Latin America, Canada, Eastern and Western Europe will also be discussed at the conference, Mr. Rabie added.

He said nearly 50 centres from around the world will be represented at the conference.

Fewer fires, more rescues in Balqa Governorate this year

SALT (Petra) — A report by the civil defence authorities in Balqa Governorate reveals a considerable drop in the number of fires which occurred in the region over the past few months compared with the same period of 1984. The report said that this year there were 68 fires compared with 90 in the first seven months of 1984.

But the report added that the number of first aid and rescue operations carried out this year was more than in 1984, which it said, reflects on improvement in the standard and performance of civil defence centres and also cooperation on the part of the public to safeguard lives and protect public property. The report urged citizens to avoid making fires near dry grass and wood in forest areas to help prevent any fires.

Beautiful, well-preserved Byzantine mosaic unearthed in Madaba

Text and Photos By
Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

MADABA — Excavations near the ancient colonnaded Roman street in the centre of Madaba have unearthed another beautiful and well-preserved Byzantine mosaic. It is particularly valuable because it is one of the new mosaic floors from a domestic building, while most of the other well-known Madaba mosaics come from former churches.

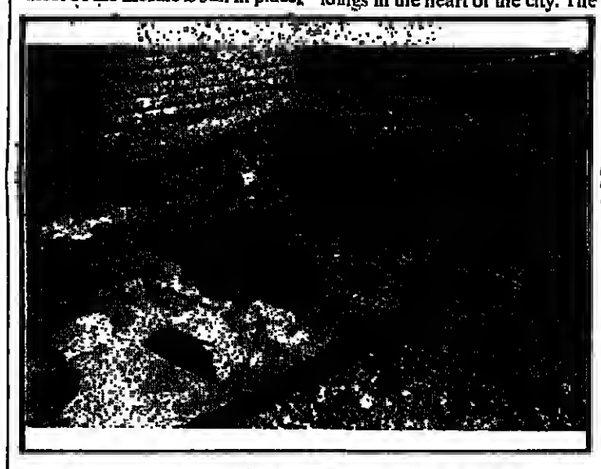
The mosaic covered the floor of a 10 x 7 metre rectangular hall in a private villa. The northern edge of the mosaic was destroyed by the foundation trenches of an adjacent modern building, though most of the mosaic is still in place. Parts of it were charred by fire in antiquity, when the room was destroyed and finally abandoned.

The mosaic dates from the end of the 6th Century AD, according to Father Michele Piccirillo of the Franciscan Archaeological Institute, who excavated it last month. The Franciscan institute has worked in the Madaba/Mount Nebo area since the 1930, and is excavating and restoring the memorial of Moses Church at Mount Nebo.

Father Piccirillo is in charge of the ongoing Department of Antiquities project to excavate the areas immediately bordering the small stretch of the colonnaded Roman main street of Madaba, now nestled among modern buildings in the heart of the city. The department plans to roof over the entire Roman road complex and turn it into an open museum, where some of Madaba's best mosaics may be viewed in their original setting.

Immediately adjacent to the Roman road are two 6th Century AD Byzantine churches that were used into the 7th Century AD Umayyad period, the Church of the Virgin Mary and the Church of the Prophet Elias. Both also contain important floor mosaics that have been reburied for protection, but will be restored soon for public viewing.

The new mosaic discovered in the Byzantine mansion, about 100 metres north-west of the Roman road, will be lifted and restored before being exhibited in the new museum complex.



View of the excavations and site where the mosaic was discovered.

Hunting scenes, animals

The mosaic is composed of a central carpet surrounded by an unusually wide and rich rectangular frame. The central carpet is divided into acanthus circles decorated with hunting and pastoral scenes. Among the most impressive representations are scenes of a hunter killing a bear with a spear, a lamb suckling, a beautiful horse, rabbits, and other animals.

The rectangular mosaic frame around the central carpet is particularly wide (over one metre), and rich in decorations, including animals, hearts, and geometric designs. The entire mosaic is interesting for what it reveals about Byzantine period domestic art.

Part of the Byzantine mosaic floor, showing the hunting and wildlife scenes together with the border of birds and trees.

Unlike the church mosaics found throughout the Madaba area, this floor mosaic does not contain any obvious religious symbolism. The inhabitants of the house did not shun religious symbolism, however, for several of the ceramic oil lamps excavated from the room were decorated with Christian crosses. Some typical 7th Century AD Umayyad ceramic lamps were also retrieved.

The hall in which the mosaic was placed was entered through a door to the west. Just inside the door, the mosaic floor is adorned with a pair of sandals within a wreath, welcoming the guests into the room. The wooden main door was decorated with a pair of large bronze door-knockers, which were recovered intact from the coal and ash remains of the burnt door.

Another door on the south side of the room led into a second chamber whose ground and basement room roofs were both carried on stone arches. The arches of the basement room are still in place. This southern room ultimately gave onto the cardo, the colonnaded main street of Roman/Byzantine Madaba.

Active societies continue to develop their programmes for the benefit rural, local communities

By Raghda Azizieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ministry of Social Developments efforts to develop local societies aim to create social and cultural changes in society by encouraging local people to implement projects and by building cooperation between them and the government to carry out certain development programmes.

Through these efforts and programmes, the ministry opened centres in rural areas with main centres in Sama Sarhan, Theiban, Kuraymeh and Hay Hamlan. The activities of these local societies and centres were mainly in agriculture, vocational training and social services.

The history of social development in Jordan goes back to the mid-1950's when several attempts were initiated by the government and a centre was established in Beit-Hanina in the West Bank of Jordan. This centre was mainly for training personnel on different aspects of technical development work. In the early 1960's graduates from this centre were able to fulfill the duties of social development work and to cover the whole of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, assisted by other government officials.

Experimental period

This experiment went on for several years but enthusiasm dampened after the June war in 1967. In the early 1960's the Arab League, in cooperation with the government, established another centre in Fuheis, but this experiment also failed and later the centre was turned into a mental hospital.

The government, however, realising the importance of social development, intensified its efforts in the period between 1945-1961, and attempted to draw up a basic economic and social framework for this development move in order to promote and implement it. This was started by directing a large proportion of public sector investment to build a network of roads allowing easy access to rural areas and increasing social services such as education and health care in these regions.

A special section was then established to undertake development work in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in 1967 and in 1972 it became a department and eventually in 1978 it became the Directorate of Local Societies Development. The law outlined its role as being to "create social changes in order to make a balance between the financial and social sides of the community. This should be done by means of mutual cooperation with local societies and government departments".

The question at that time was where to start as if the aims were to create economical, social and cultural changes in a society with the support and efforts of local people, then mutual dialogue between the people and the authorities and a realistic evaluation of the situation was necessary. The work was started by giving support to existing centres and the people were encouraged technically and financially to start new ones. Government officials involved in development work, as well as local leaders, were trained for such work. A lot of weight was given to family affairs, especially since rural women often went out to work thus creating certain difficulties at home.

Major difficulties

Mr. Faysal Khatib, the director of the Directorate of Local Societies Development, outlined in a report some of the problems and obstacles hindering the development operation. The first obstacle, in his opinion, was the duplication and lack of cooperation between different government departments. He also cited a lack of information, statistics, research, trained personnel, the small size of the villages, the large distances between villages, the media failing to enlighten and educate the people about the development programmes and the lack of funds as other major obstacles. He sees the solutions in the form of building a network of roads, training people and using the media more effectively. Foreign institutions were also approached for professional and financial assistance in order to solve some of the difficulties.

One of the most beneficial impacts on rural local societies was through work done by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Sister Leona A Denahue, CRS representative in Jordan pointed out that their work is spread all over Jordan; Irbid, Azraq, Mafraq, Jerash, Aqaba, around Ma'an, Shobak, Wadi Musa, the Southern Ghor Tafileh and elsewhere.

The CRS, she said, was founded for a short period of time during 1917 to handle the refugee situation which arose after World War I. It was then disbanded but during World War II it was re-established primarily to deal with refugees in Europe. Since then, the CRS has expanded all over the world; they are represented in 50 countries but have a presence in 20 more. Their work involves emergency relief from natural disasters and they also undertake development work.

In Jordan they focused their activities in the rural areas which are far less developed. The two major areas of their work involve income-generating projects for women and increased agricultural production by introducing up-to-date machinery and techniques to rural farmers

Sewing centre

Sister Leona added that their largest project at present is in Mafraq where the CRS has established a production sewing unit where 25 women make a variety of clothes for hotels and hospitals such as uniforms and gowns. This project came into operation in August 1984. The CRS has two full-time workers at the centre who supervise the work.

The initial request for the centre came from the local societies to the Ministry of Social Development and in this case the Arab Women's Society in Mafraq asked the CRS to provide training and employment for their women. The ministry approached the CRS and after a feasibility study the unit was established. And by August 1986 the CRS hope to have a well-developed cooperative society. The CRS have also provided sewing machines for other centres in Jordan as well as other equipment, such as typewriters, to various community development projects. They also introduced and demonstrated winnower machines and three hydroponic machines — machines which grow grass in eight days using light seeds, moisture, temperature and light — to small farmers.

The growth factors are controlled by the machine where the seeds are put on trays in rotation down a series of trays so that by the eighth day, and when the tray reaches the bottom, it is ready for consumption by cattle who can eat the grass and roots as it is not planted on earth. These machines are experimental at the moment in Dheleil centre and are especially valuable in drought seasons.

Sister Leona added "To carry this step further, we have worked out a proposal under which we will work with Yarmouk University to see if we can develop a hydroponic machine here in Jordan and the university is going to try and see if they can use solar energy to heat and cool it. So we will be using local engineers, training local students, developing a machine and testing it here to see if this machine could be used in rural areas where there is no steady supply of electricity. If it could be built in Jordan it would also be much cheaper".

Funding

Funds for the CRS and its projects come from the American government but help comes from other governments, like the Canadian and British governments, through their embassies in Amman and through some private groups like the Near East Foundation and Oxfam which generally partially subsidise their projects. For example the CRS has imported stone-fruit trees from Italy. Each tree costs JD 1.000 and the CRS is selling the saplings to the small farmers for 600 fils.

In other cases and when the Ministry of Social Development approaches the CRS with a certain request, the CRS investigates and researches the project and produces a proposal. For example, to establish a day care centre or kindergarten, the local society would find the building and the CRS provides the equipment or they provide the funds to train a teacher while the local society provides the teacher's salary.

A field supervisor from the Catholic Relief Services (right) discusses local conditions with Australian Ambassador in Jordan Richard Gate (left) and a family near the Dead Sea (J.T. file photo)

The hydroponic grass machine at the University of Jordan which is being developed for possible use by local societies and small farmers to provide sufficient fodder for livestock (J.T. file photo)

When East meets West

WORLD ATTENTION is nowadays widely focused on the proposed Geneva summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The need for such a summit is quite imperative in view of mounting world tension and deteriorating East-West relations. The summit will offer an opportunity for the two leaders to address themselves to important international issues and problems that require urgent solutions. However, no spectacular breakthrough should be expected.

As they say, between the cup and the lip there could always be a slip, one would never know, in the context of innumerable imponderables, whether or not the proposed summit would become a mere political canard. For one reason or another, either party can scuttle the summit in many a subtle way to suit particular interests. However, nobody can minimise the importance of even a casual camaraderie between the two superpowers at this juncture of history.

The summit would have definite meaning and relevance for the peace-loving people provided: (a) it would contribute to reducing East-West tension; (b) it would serve as a confidence-building measure, enhancing the spirit of East-West detente; (c) it would seek ways to halt vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons; (d) it would attempt at limiting nuclear stockpiles on either side with a view to completely eliminating them through effective disarmament measures; and (e) it would encourage mutual and dynamic East-West cooperation in all fields — especially in science and technology — which would prove immensely beneficial, not only to themselves, but also to all countries, developed and developing.

As things stand now, it augures ill when it is known that for the U.S. the sky seems to be the limit for nuclear arms build-up as has been unmistakably demonstrated by Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative or "Star Wars" programme. Neither is it customary for the Soviet Union to lag behind the United States in nuclear weapons development, wherever it might be. The die is cast and both are ominously poised to bounce the nuclear arms race into space.

Great men meet to discuss grave problems besetting the world. But their greatness is measured and remembered through generations because of their ability and foresight in pulling the world away from the brink of impending disasters.

By a momentous decision at the summit, Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev may change the course leading to a nuclear Armageddon. This is not overoptimism. They can, if they jointly will it. The whole world, no doubt, would thank them and the heavens for it.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Summit backed Feb. 11 accord

KING HASSAN II of Morocco spoke at a press conference Saturday summing up the Arab summit's resolutions and highlighting the points agreed by the Arab leaders. King Hassan told newsmen that the summit considered the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian accord and joint moves to achieve a Middle East settlemen. as a means for implementing the Fez summit resolutions. which aim at bringing to an end Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

This assertion clearly indicates that the joint Jordanian-PLO moves have now acquited full support and backing by the leaders who attended the Casablanca summit in Morocco; and all the Syrian propaganda campaigns ditected against the summit and the Arab heads of state who attended it can achieve no result. The Arab summit decided to set up committees to try to normalise relations between Arab countries. but in order to enable these committees to achieve positive results Syrian propaganda campaigns and others launched by certain Arab countries should stop immediately.

King Hassan said that normal relations among Arab countries should precede his forthcoming talks with the leaders of the two superpowers whose help he is seeking in the peace process. All Arab countries now have a responsibility to back the work of the committees and the mission of King Hassan if they want to regain their rights and preserve their unity and strength.

Al Dustour: Happy anniversary!

JORDAN SUNDAY celebrates the 33rd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. This anniversary reminds the Jordanian people of the great endeavours and saerifice King Hussein has offered to the Arab nation in general and to his people in particular. The people of this country remember with pride all the King has done for them and for promoting Jordan's development and progress in every social and economic field.

Over the past 33 years, Jordan has faced many obstacles in its drive to achieve progress. and under the wise leadership of King Hussein. many of the problems and difficulties have been overcome and great achievements realised. Jordan now acquires a very respectable position among the world nations and in the Arab World. King Hussein's constant attention and concern over the defence of Jordan prompted him to provide the armed forces with most up to date military equipment to enable them to give protection to the citizens and to the Arab nation at large.

King Hussein's endeavours at the regional. national and international levels are appreciated and respected. and his relentless efforts designed to bring about solidarity among Arab states is a source of pride to all. On this happy occasion the Jordanian family expresses allegiance and appreciation to its leader and pledges to march behind him towards further progress.

Sawt Al Shaab: An oasis of tranquility

AS JORDAN celebrates the 33rd anniversary of King Hussein's accession to the throne. the citizens of this country remember the great sacrifice and service the King offered to Jordan and the Arab nation. and the progress achieved in the country under his wise leadership. The anniversary rekindles memories of the King's endeavours to realise what is best for Jordan and to provide his countrymen with means for decent life.

Under King Hussein. Jordan has become an oasis of social and economic stability and prosperity in a turbulent Middle East region and has witnessed great progress in many fields.

Under King Hussein. Jordan has been transformed into a citadel in the face of Zionist aggression and its steadfastness has been increased and bolstered in the face of threats.

On this anniversary the armed forces remember King Hussein's efforts to bolster the country's defences and its determination to help the Palestinian people regain their right in their homeland. On this anniversary. the Jordanian people renew a pledge for allegiance to the Hashemite throne and their will to continue supporting their leader towards prosperity.

GUEST COLUMN

By Awwad Abu Zeineh

Now that the Falashas have eaten

A FEW months after their arrival in Israel. the Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) discovered the bitter truth about life in the Israeli society. They discovered that there was a big difference between what they had been told through the Israeli propaganda media and reality.

The Falashas found out that the truth had been covered by a thin layer of snow which. having now melted. exposed the true reasons behind this migration. They found that the transportation of Jews from Ethiopia to Israel was not motivated by humanitarian feelings nor by the desire on the part of Israel to help the Ethiopian and African nationals overcome the hunger crisis.

The Falashas discovered that they have been placed in the midst of a group of people that immediately began to exercise all forms of racial discrimination against them. They discovered that having temporarily escaped from hunger and poverty in Ethiopia. they have now fallen victim to a sinister conspiracy. They found they were victims of Zionist colonial rule that wanted to employ the newcomers as farm labourers overworked as slaves in new colonies set up on the occupied Arab territories. What the Falashas discovered was that they were needed to help protect the Zionist settlers and their expansionist projects and plans in the Arab territory.

The Falashas will in conclusion be in the forefront of the battle zone with the Arabs under Israeli occupation rule who saw their land being usurped and taken away from them by the Zionist rulers.

The Ethiopian emigrants found that their movement in Israel was restricted and they cannot practise business of their own and by their own free will. They were deceived by propaganda into believing that Israel was an oasis of democracy.

One of the most bitter truths these Falashas discovered was the fact that they cannot exercise their religious rites and customs in the way they were used to. and found that the Jewish rabbis intend to change their traditions and customs and to make them conform to the Zionist system and way of worship

Ironically. the Zionist rulers discovered that the Falashas included some Muslims who. having overcome the problem of hunger remembered they have a duty of practising their own worship.

Generally speaking. the Falashas found their demands and their aspirations conflict with what the rabbinate and the Jewish Agency had planned for them. Faced with the bitter truth. some of the Ethiopian immigrants committed suicide. others issued threats of reverting to violence to resist all racial discrimination being practised against them and some threatened to return to Ethiopia via Egypt.

The Israeli information media ignored these moves by the Falashas and also kept silent about the repression being exercised against them. But finally the news about what was really happening to these African immigrants leaked out to the press and could not be concealed any more. This caused Prime Minister Shimon Peres to meet with the leaders of the Falashas. but the meeting did not yield any positive results. and the prime minister asked for time to settle the immigrants question and requested Ethiopians to refrain from any violence or protest action pending government measures to settle their issue. What Peres wanted to show the Falashas was his government concern over their problem. and so he assured the immigrants that their case was being taken care of. But in reality Peres was biding for time to allow his government a breathing space to handle the issue in a "proper" manner. by dissipating the immigrants' efforts with the purpose of controlling them in the end. and transforming them from an anti-Zionist force into a movement totally oriented against the Arab population.

Tunisia raises bread prices amid mixed economic outlook

By Charles Dick
Reuter

TUNIS — Tunisia. facing mixed economic prospects. is gradually raising bread prices despite last year's bloody "bread riots" that killed 89 people.

In spite of a bumper harvest. the country's economy is reeling from the blow of increasing debt repayments falling due at a time when its limited oil reserves are diminishing.

Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali. the designated successor to President Habib Bourguiba. who was 82 last Saturday. has had to reverse a policy of comparatively lavish wage increases.

The government has so far withstood demands by the powerful General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT) for an end to a two-year wage freeze and for salary rises to be linked to prices.

But the UGTT has signalled it is ready for a trial of strength with the government and intends to launch a series of strikes this summer to press its case.

One of the most sensitive issues in the government-union debate on the cost of living and wage levels is the price of bread and other basic foodstuffs. which are heavily subsidised.

Following the riots 18 months ago over a doubling of the price of bread. the government switched to a more gradual approach to achieve its goal of limiting subsidies.

Bread price rises have now been staggered and rises of 10-15 per cent were announced last month after similar rises in 1984.

The government also announced an increase in the price of imported beef. another subsidised commodity. On the brighter side. there has been a bumper grain harv One of the most sensitive issues in the government-union debate on the cost of living and wage levels is the price of bread and other basic foodstuffs. which are heavily subsidised.

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Tunisia. a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). has modest oil reserves. The 1985 budget foresees production of 37.5 million barrels this year. down from about 39.5 million barrels last year.

Officials of the national oil company ETAP predict that if no more oil is found and no further conservation measures adopted. Tunisia will become a net importer of crude in 1990.

Western economic analysts emphasise that Tunisia's credit rating remains high and that the country. which achieved comparatively impressive rates of growth during the 1970s. is viewed with confidence by the international banking community.

Public debt tripled between 1981-84 and the country wants foreign loans of 875 million dinars (about $1billion)this year. up from 790 million (about $900 million) last year.

Western economists put outstanding foreign debt at just over $4 billion. plus about $1billion for a military modernisation programme.

Any decline in the dollar's strength at the end of the year should reduce the cost of servicing such debt and foreign reserves should reach near-normal levels by then. they said.

A crisis in foreign reserves this year led to severe restrictions on imports from April when they dipped so low they threatened to be exhausted in two weeks. the analysts said.

Economy Minister Rachid Sear said in a recent interview that the government aimed to hold debt repayments at their present level of just over 45 per cent of gross domestic product.

Tunisia has launched a big export drive to try to reduce its current account balance of payments deficit. estimated to reach 565 million dinars ($666 million) this year. compared to 550 million ($715 million at 1984 rates) last year.

A World Bank report has advocated a 10 per cent devaluation of the dinar as part of a programme to boost exports.

Tunisia also wants to attract foreign oil companies to continue the search for oil. Exploration by U.S. oil companies represents the largest section of U.S. investment in Tunisia. with yearly expenditure running at about $150 million.

Tunisia signed a treaty with the U.S. in June doing away with double taxation on corporate income. Oil industry sources say some firms. including Marathon. have been reducing expatriate staff because of poor initial returns.

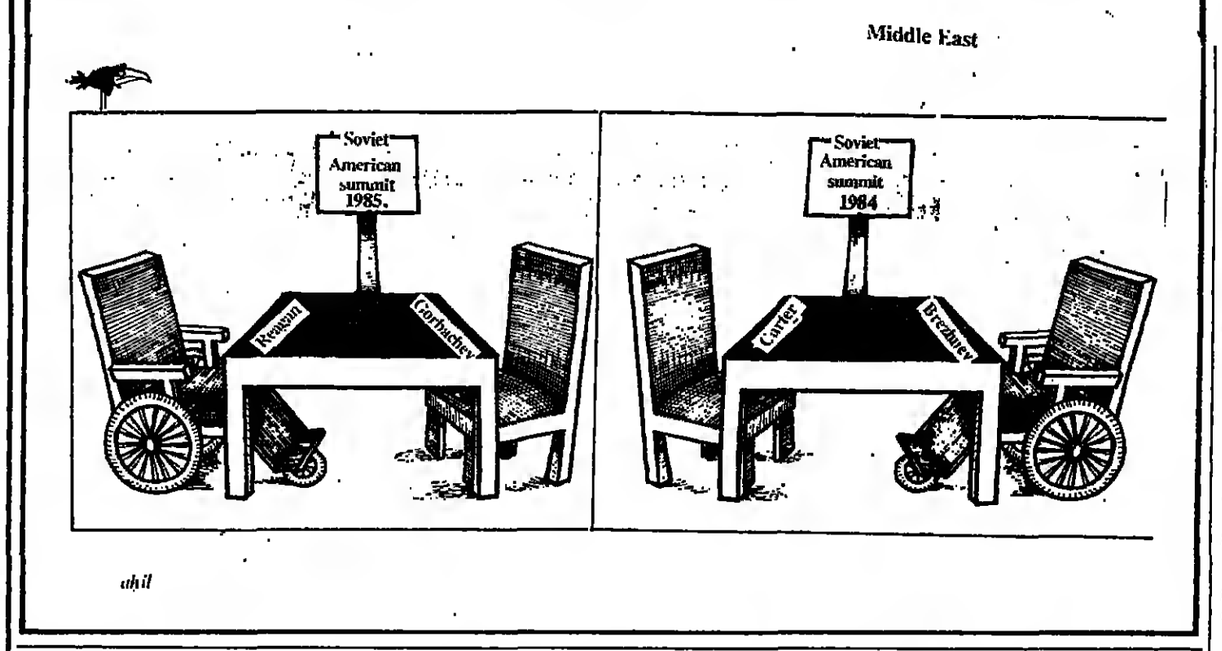
Since Tunisia's independence from France in 1956. the economy has been through three main periods: A failed experiment with a "socialist" economy and collective farming. the "boom" years with the oil of the 1970s. and the current belt-tightening phase brought on by the world recession.

Agriculture currently contributes around 16 per cent of gross national product. and it is this sector which is threatened by Spain and Portugal's entry into the European Community next January 1.

Tunisia fears that its traditional olive oil markets in the community — it has been around the world's fourth-largest producer in recent years — will be snatched by the newcomers.

Agriculture also absorbs about a third of the labour force and the fight against unemployment has been one of the government's prime goals.

Western economists say unofficial estimates put the jobless rate at above 25 per cent of the 1,677,000 work force. The government has yet to attain the 50,000 new jobs a year target it set itself under the 1982-1986 plan.



The weapon Finland keeps for emergencies

In international talks, Finland's ministers break down formality by subjecting adversaries to a steaming sauna. It's hard to be pompous and intransigent with no clothes on, says **Kevin Done.** *Participants in the Helsinki accord anniversary may be in for a hot time.*

ON A recent visit to Finland. Mr. Shintaro Abe. the Japanese foreign minister. was pictured naked on the front page of one of Helsinki's most respected daily newspaper. His colleague and host. Mr. Paavo Vayrynen. the Finnish foreign minister. also featured. They sat smiling and chatting. their modesty preserved only by a few bunches of leafy birch twigs.

A similar fate may have well awaited Mr. George Shultz. the U.S. secretary of state. Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze. the Soviet foreign minister and the rest of the 35 foreign ministers who gathered in Finland on July 30. for the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki accord — if attendant press photographers could break through the security checks.

The Finns are certainly not averse to using their national institution as a means to an end either in diplomacy or business. The sauna. they claim. is a great leveller.

Finnish industrialists and politicians are well-known for taking their adversaries to the sauna. As the Finnish Sauna Society explains: "Hostility melts in the steam as birch twigs. swish. and stubborn minds begin to accept compromise. Rank and protocol are shed in the dressing room along with one's clothes. It is hard to maintain pompous dignity without clothes".

It was in the sauna that the former Finnish President Urho Kekkonen reputedly cleared the way with the Soviet leader. Nikita Kruschev. for Finland to join the European Free Trade Area (EFTA).

Mr. Kekkonen was equally ready to use the sauna weapon against the West. Mr. Dean Rusk. a former U.S. secretary of state. expressly ruled out a sauna visit before visiting Helsinki. being ignorant of the institution and believing it was better left alone.

However. Mr. Kekkonen was nothing if not persistent. After official talks at his home in Helsinki. he led an unsuspecting Mr. Rusk through the grounds to a hut beside the water. Mr. Kekkonen removed his jacket and tie and the American followed suit. according to one of the participants. Mr. Max Jacobson. a former Finnish ambassador to the United Nations.

When the Finnish president began to take off his shirt. it dawned on Mr. Rusk what was in store for him. He gamely followed Mr. Kekkonen's example. pausing only to point a finger at the accompanying U.S. ambassador and bark: "You're fired!"

Wherever Finns go. their saunas go with them. Finnish troops serving with the U.N. peacekeeping forces insist that one of their first priorities on arrival is to erect a tent sauna. whether the location is the cool mountains of Cyprus or the baking valleys of Lebanon. During World War II. Finnish troops even built saunas at the front line along with more normal fortifications.

At home. Finns go to great lengths to assure visitors that for them the sauna is not the sort of institution found in red light districts around the world. "A Finnish sauna is a place where you wash and relax. it is not a 'massage parlour'." says the Helsinki Tourist Guides Association in its "Helsinki Today" guidebook.

Given that there are about 1.2 million saunas in Finland and only 4.9 million Finns. that would otherwise make an awful lot of massage parlours. Finland is no doubt the only country in the world where the sauna outnumbers the car; and it is constantly seeking to spread the gospel abroad.

However. enough foreigners appear to be convinced of the pleasures of sweating in small dark rooms at temperatures of about 100°C (212°F) to allow the sauna to make a useful contribution to the Finnish trade balance. Exports of sauna ovens and sauna cabins totalled about FMk 32 million ($5.40 million) last year; and about 110,000 sauna ovens. both electric and wood-heated. are produced every year.

The sauna has played a central role in Finnish life for centuries. Many Finns now aged more than 60 years were actually born in a sauna. In the days when most babies were born at home. the sauna was the most suitable and hygienic place. It was also the place where the old were taken to die.

In the last two generations. the sauna has moved along with most of the population from the countryside to the towns. but the bathroom sauna in a Helsinki flat and the ancient Finnish smoke sauna or *savu-suana*. still have in common the heated rocks and the sweat.

Saunas are found in most Finnish homes; but the most idyllic are those built beside cottages at the lakeside with a jetty leading straight to the water for a cooling swim. In the depths of winter a hole can be cut in the ice if a roll in the snow does not suffice.

The sweating process is speeded up by heating yourself with a vihta. a bundle of leafy birch twigs bound into a whisk or switch. The birch twigs are cut in full leaf during the summer and then either dried with salt or kept in the freezer for use during the long winter months.

One sauna book is good enough to admit. however: "The over-vigorous use of the whisk and the roll in the snow are aspects of the ritual urged on the unsuspecting foreigner but not always practised so devoutly by Finns themselves."

Heating the sauna can take many hours in mid-winter. the smoke from the birch-wood fire swirling thick and black straight into the sauna room before escaping in billowing clouds beneath the eaves. The walls and ceiling are left black and sooted. but the benches are scrubbed clean.

The sauna has also been the subject of exhaustive scientific and medical study. Learned papers have been written on "The sauna as a psychic purgative", and on the use of the sauna in treating heart. circulatory and respiratory diseases.

Rats have also had to take saunas in the cause of medical science as part of studies on the negative effects of sauna bathing. The title of one paper given at an international sauna congress in Helsinki some years ago was "sudden death during and after the sauna."

However. that is one topic most Finnish guide books steer clear of. They prefer another message: "Sauna is an unescapable part of Finnish life. It costs next to nothing and brings the joy back to living" — Financial Times news feature.

Japan tries to boost domestic demand to avoid foreign backlash

By Linda Sieg
Reuter

TOKYO — Japan. facing increasing foreign hostility over its exports and protectionism in the United States. is trying to spur domestic investment and sell more goods at home.

U.S. congressmen visiting Tokyo Friday said protectionist legislation was certain unless Japan made "heroic efforts" to reduce its trade surplus with the United States. which reached $37 billion in 1984 and may hit 50 billion this year.

Japanese officials said a programme announced by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone last month to open Japan's markets to foreign goods was the best they could do at the moment.

But State Minister Toshio Komoto admitted the programme was unlikely to lead to a drastic increase in imports unless Japan's market capacity "is expanded by stimulating domestic demand and the prices of imported goods are lowered by correcting the overvaluation of the dollar against the yen."

Politicians. led by Mr. Nakasone himself. and bureaucrats have floated several proposals in recent months to get consumers to save less and spend more and encourage firms to invest more of their vast capital reserves at home rather than overseas.

Now moves to solidify those proposals appear to be speeding up. "It looks as if something is really going to happen now." Peter Tasker. an analyst with merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson. told Reuters.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has asked a special working group drawn from government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. set to begin meeting next month. to discuss three main ways to stimulate the economy.

The first is tax reform — a sticky issue in Japan. where the last attempt to introduce a large scale tax reform in 1979 led to major election losses for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Economists said the government would eventually enact a combination of corporate and personal income tax cuts. replenishing lost revenue with sales or other value-added tax. They also expect reform of the tax-exempt savings system.

Mr. Nakasone has indicated that the first step may be to enact politically popular income tax reductions and tax breaks for housing loans in the next session of parliament. Some LDP leaders have suggested taxing exports or foreign exchange profits to make up the losses.

But how far and how quickly politicians can go with such measures remains an open question. as the Finance Ministry opposes any cuts not balanced by alternative revenues.

LDP leaders have also proposed a second option which gives a new twist to old-fashioned public works spending to circumvent Finance Ministry opposition to increased government spending.

The new plan. supported by Mr. Nakasone. would draw private corporate funds into several large-scale highway and bridge projects which were mothballed by recent austere budgets.

One such project is a four-billion-dollar plan to build a 15 kilometre highway and road tunnel under Tokyo bay to link a string of ports and industrial areas.

The Construction Ministry is also pushing several schemes. most involving selling disused Japan National Railway freight yards in prime urban locations or placing such land in trust for private or joint public-private development. economists said.

Japan already has one example of such private sector investment in the Kansai International Airport. an $8 billion project being funded by joint private and government capital. they said.

The total cost of such projects could run to $84 billion over 10 years. according to one estimate. But no one has spelled out exactly how they would be funded and doubts exist over whether private firms will heed the call to invest.

Japanese firms sent some $35 billion overseas to invest in foreign stocks and bonds in the fiscal year ended March 31. 1985.

"The funds are there. it's a question of making it attractive to invest at home than abroad." said economist Peter Morgan of Jardine Fleming (securities).

A third proposal also favoured by Mr. Nakasone is to encourage private investment by loosening government regulations.

Proposed changes which economists say are most likely to affect domestic growth would ease restrictions on high-rise buildings in urban areas and open up some farmland and other sites now zoned off-limits to urban developers.

Economists say all these proposals should help step up domestic demand. reduce dependence on exports and sop up some of the excess capital going overseas.

In theory. bringing capital home would strengthen the yen. make Japanese exports more expensive and help redress the trade balance.

But a bank of Japan report issued last week said trying to reduce the trade imbalance by such measures was unlikely to work and might even be counterproductive.

هكذا من الأصل

When catastrophe programme flickers

Just one small programming error could start World War III or a space disaster. The bigger and older the programme, the more fraught with danger. **David Bodanis** *reports.*

A FLICKERING TV screen is a terrifying beast. Stand back after fixing it and the clear screen starts to squiggle; fix it again, then sit down and the squiggles have been replaced by snow.

Big computer programmes are worse, so much worse that even with salaries of more than £20,000 a year it's hard to find enough people to fix all the programmes that regularly go wrong.

The reason is that many computer programmes are horribly messy objects, with pieces wedged in here, or stretching commands wending over there, the whole being such a tangle that once completed they are impenetrable to creator and outsider alike.

This can produce spectacular effects. When the Mariner I Venus probe was blown up after launch in 1962, it was because of a one word mistake in its programming, a mistake which nobody had been able to notice ahead of time because the programming was too complex.

The postponement of the first Space Shuttle flight came because of a fault somewhere in the timing control of its several million lines of onboard software, which frantic programmers were unable to pick out even in several hours hunting while the TV-covered shuttle was on the pad.

Those faults were merely embarrassing, and expensive. Far more serious was the cockup that happened on June 3, 1980. Early that morning the computers of the U.S. North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) sent out, in quick succession, warnings of attacks on the U.S.

The computers said that the attack was coming from two Soviet submarine missiles, then that more submarine missiles had joined the attack, and finally, after the American pilots had scrambled and were waiting in their nuclear-armed B-52 jets, warnings that a full-scale Soviet ICBM launch had begun.

In investigations later it appeared that NORAD officials were terrified of the software responsible. They had no monitors to let them know what messages were being sent out, as patching in such monitors could interfere with the flow of data. They had no comprehensive checking software to pick out equipment faults such as the one at the heart of that alert, because no one had been able to design software that would do the checking and yet not interfere with the original software.

If the officials had become aware that their computers had found something, and they wanted to confirm that, it was not some innocuous objects already in orbit, they would have had to check verbally with staff in a Space Surveillance Centre in a nearby room: they were scared to hook their computer up with the computer of the space surveillance people because they could not guarantee that the programme doing the hooking up would not make things worse.

"The computers said that the attack was coming from two Soviet submarine missiles, then that more submarine missiles had joined the attack, and finally, after the American pilots had scrambled and were waiting in their nuclear-armed B-52 jets, warning that a full-scale Soviet ICBM launch had begun."

All this involved one of the most important computers in the world, in an organisation that had near limitless funds for programmers. How did things ever get in such a mess?

Early computer programmes were simple things, sometimes with just a few hundred or a few thousand logical steps.

At that level it was easy to write them in what seemed the most obvious way, going through one section after another of the problem until everything was finished. When there was a complication, commands could be put in to jump to another part of the programme, where the details of that problem could be worked out.

As programmes got much longer, however, say from around the late 1950s, this approach broke down. While for the programmer it seemed natural to cram in one partial solution after another as he went along, once he had finished there would be no overall form to the programme that any outsider could see. This made finding errors hard. If there's a knot at a certain point in an otherwise straight length of string, it's easy to find and then undo. But if there's the same unintended knot in a string that is tangled up in a gigantic ball knot itself, then finding the unintended one is much harder.

Possibly the worst point came with the introduction of the IBM 360 computer in the 1960s. The software of its operating system was a disaster. It had errors, was held back so that IBM programmers could try to find and fix them, was released, had more errors, was recalled, and etc. The whole thing cost IBM several hundred million dollars, and as the 360 and similar machines were being used in many military systems, helped prompt the 1968 NATO conference on "the software crisis".

It was not clear what the solution could be. No one wanted to produce bad software, but as projects kept getting larger that's all even the most highly paid programmers could come up with.

Putting more programmers on important projects didn't help, as that just meant more second-guessing, more divisions into sub-sections, and accordingly more section-jumping "goto" commands to straighten up the individual bits.

The answer came in some musings of the Dutch computer scientist, Edsger Dijkstra, who in 1968 produced a privately distributed paper called Notes on Structured Programming. In it, he showed how programmers could structure their tasks into clearly identifiable sub-blocks, and then, most importantly, work out the various parts of the structure without those confusing "goto" commands that wended in such a tangled way inside the old programmes.

A programme written this way was wonderfully clear. Because it was built in distinct sub-sections, project managers could see what each part was supposed to be doing. If there was any problem in its working, they could tell the exact portion where the fault must have come from. And since each sub-section had a clear task it was also easy to change a programme: all the programmers needed to do was create a new sub-section, check that it hooked up neatly with the sub-sections around it, then slot it into the old sub-section's place.

If this technique was introduced in 1968, why is programming still so poor? Why do programmers still spend much of their time fixing other programmers' errors, and why do the expensive military machines, as at NORAD, still foul-up so easily?

The first reason is that Dijkstra's revolution was only a partial revolution. Traditional programmers fought it as much as they could. Many had entered programming because of the excitement of writing out programmes that only they understood, and then having the even greater excitement of solving one debugging problem after another as errors in its working came up.

With structured programming the thrill of individual glory was out. Tasks were outlined, sub-sections were assigned, careful testing was done — teamwork was in. It was the end of the traditional craftsman methods, and the beginning of a profession.

There is a nice analogy to the professionalisation of electrical engineers towards the end of the last century. These were men who had prided themselves on their intuitive feel for their speciality. For small projects that was all right, but as the tasks they were set to work on grew, their traditional techniques started to fail. In particular building long-distance phone lines became nearly impossible, because of the problem of self-inductance along the wire.

The only way to understand and counter self-inductance was to use Maxwell's mathematical theory of fields. Institutes for electricial engineers began to be set up, and students had to acquire a grounding in the more advanced mathematics of the time. Despite much protest, the old-style intuitive workers were left out.

Computer programming is still in the middle of the battle. Few workers have a real grounding in the most advanced mathematics. They say that the usual approach is good enough for most projects, that a full theoretical approach would be overkill.

The new guard, however, say this isn't good enough. There are a lot of insults. In a pamphlet of the Oxford University Computing Laboratory's Programming Research Group, C.A.R. Hoare declaimed: "Most pilots never crash a plane. Nost surgeons never kill a patient. Most civil engineers never build a bridge which collapses. Until each programmer displays this kind of professional accuracy and responsibility, all our claims to professional status are subject to doubt. It's true that one does not use structural engineering analysis to build a sandcastle. But neither does one choose the prize-winning builder of sandcastles as architect for a tower block of offices in a city."

To the extent that structured programming is winning, this is because, on large projects, it works better. One of the first examples was the computerised information bank that the New York Times set up in the early 1970s. Designed by programmers who had studied Dijkstra's work, it worked, almost perfectly, first time.

Other firms wanted this efficiency, and structured techniques spread. Project managers could count on structured work coming out better; non-technical executives liked it too because it made it easier for them to talk to the programmers they had hired, to integrate into their firm the set-up of clear specifications, sub-sections, guaranteed delivery dates and all the rest.

The French for example did this with their computerised phone switching system, to great success: it started after Britain's troubled System X and is now exporting well.

In one sphere, however, even these successes could not bring about the switch. For very important software, no one would dare to bring in the new approach: the old programmes had generally been messed around with so much to get the errors out that no one could read them properly to see how they worked.

If for example you tried to add in a section on the NORAD software so it could check its findings against the files of the Space Surveillance Centre, you would have no way of guaranteeing that this change would not distort some other part of the programme in ways you couldn't predict.

"Computers have changed, but not always the software, especially the operating systems, in them. The large warning radar at Fylingdales, for example, can detect only a few dozen individual Russian warheads, instead of the thousands that might come in a full attack".

It would be, as Dr. Hoare has suggested, as if a car were so held together with sealing string and clanking bolted-on rods that you were scared to turn it to the left, because something terrible might happen to the cigarette-lighter, rear mirror or carburettor.

There have been efforts to change major pieces of pre-structured programming, but it's difficult. The air traffic computer responsible for flights including those out of Heathrow and Gatwick, for example, is at the London Air Traffic Control Centre at West Drayton. As it was purchased from IBM in the early 1970s, the coding within it was written in the late 1960s, which means that much of it was not clearly structured at all.

British programmers have been working at it for more than 10 years, and though they think they have cleared up some of the most tangled portions, they still have to limit the changes they dare to put in.

That air traffic computer is perfectly safe. It's for the seven larger military systems that the problem is worse. Defence officials have been disingenuous, giving the impression that their equipment uses the most modern technology. For such large systems this is often just not so.

Computers have changed, but not always the software, especially the operating systems, in them. The large warning radar at Fylingdales, for example, can detect only a few dozen individual Russian warheads, instead of the thousands that might come in a full attack, because it was designed in the early 1960s when the Russians had many fewer missiles than now. The software, it seems, has been unable to be properly updated since then.

(As one consequence this would mean Ronald Reagan would have only his good nature to decide if a positive signal from the powerful radars at Fylingdales meant that there was a full-out Russian attack, or just a few isolated warheads, which could justify waiting for more information).

What all this means is that we are stuck with the worst of the past — exactly in the areas where it is most important to be up-to-date. According to Professor Tony Hall, at the Oxford Computing Laboratory, "If you get a new idea in software today, you often can't use it because users want this continuity with past designs.

"We often find 20-year-old software floating around at the centre of what are supposed to be "up-to-date" systems."

The sins of unprofessional programmers are ours today — The Washington Post.

Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, no proper update since the sixties

The Gange: India's poisonous pilgrimage

The Ganga (or Ganges), India's holy river, is fast becoming a cesspool and industrial garbage dump. The millions of faithful pilgrims who bathe in it are exposing themselves not to purifying waters, but to the polluted products of human environmental abuse.

By K. Gopalakrishnan

NEW DELHI — Each day, 70,000 pilgrims from all over India enter Benares, the sacred city of the Hindus, for a purifying dip in the river Ganga. They leave carrying prayer pots of holy water — and enough disease-carrying germs to infect those who have never left their homes.

All over India, educated urbanites and illiterate villagers alike share the traditional belief that the waters of the Ganga (also known as the Ganges) are purifying and cannot be harmful. Scientists have found that Ganga pollutants are neutralised in a self-filtering process common to most large water systems. The Ganga does cleanse itself, but not until 22 kilometres (14 miles) downstream from major pollution sources.

Each day, 120 million litres of city sewage, chemical effluents from a world-renowned cottage silk industry, and hundreds of human and animal corpses are dumped into the river in the vicinity of ritual bathing sites in Benares. What flows from the taps in the city's homes is nothing better than chlorinated gutter water.

"If an epidemic breaks out here, it will spread throughout the entire country within a week", says D.S. Bagga, the Commissioner of Varanasi, as Benares is now known. Pilgrim traffic from other regions is so extensive that in 1927 cholera in Varanasi soon had all of India in its grip.

Varanasi is a major, but not the worst, pollution point along the river's 2,500 kilometre course from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. Haphazard urban growth has created problems which the administration now finds hard to tackle.

A pump installed upstream from the city in 1894 is still one of the main sources of water supply. But now the wastes from new factories and human settlements even further upstream have made it a dangerous intake source. Immediately above the pump a canal brings four million litres of oily wastes from the government-owned Diesel Locomotive Works, and eight million litres of sewage from the houses of its employees.

All the city's sewage is released into the river untreated. Until about five years ago, this sewage was pumped up to farms on the outskirts of the city, but when the pumps broke down the Ganga became a dumping ground. Downstream at Patna, there are two huge sewage treatment plants — also broken and left unrepaired.

Thousands of pilgrims and migrant workers regularly defecate on the river banks. Herders from 40 dairy farms bordering its banks regularly use the river to bathe their buffaloes and cows. But the danger to health posed by river pollution has not been systematically studied.

Infant mortality in villages around the city is 44 per cent greater than the national average, according to Dr. D.K. Aggarwal of the Department of Environment and Child Health at Benares Hindu University. She found that the most common complaints were stomachaches, worms and hepatitis.

"Infection and death due to diarrhoea can be controlled only by cleaning up the child's immediate environment", she points out. Professor K.N. Aggarwal, a paediatrician at the university hospital, believes that the incidence of waterborne diseases in the area is "extremely high".

Villagers in the area also feel that they are suffering more disease now than in the past: "More people are suffering more often from stomachaches, jaundice and polio", claims 50-year-old Dangri Devi of Madadeo village, which is dependent on the river for its irrigation, and on slow-moving Ganga canal water for domestic use.

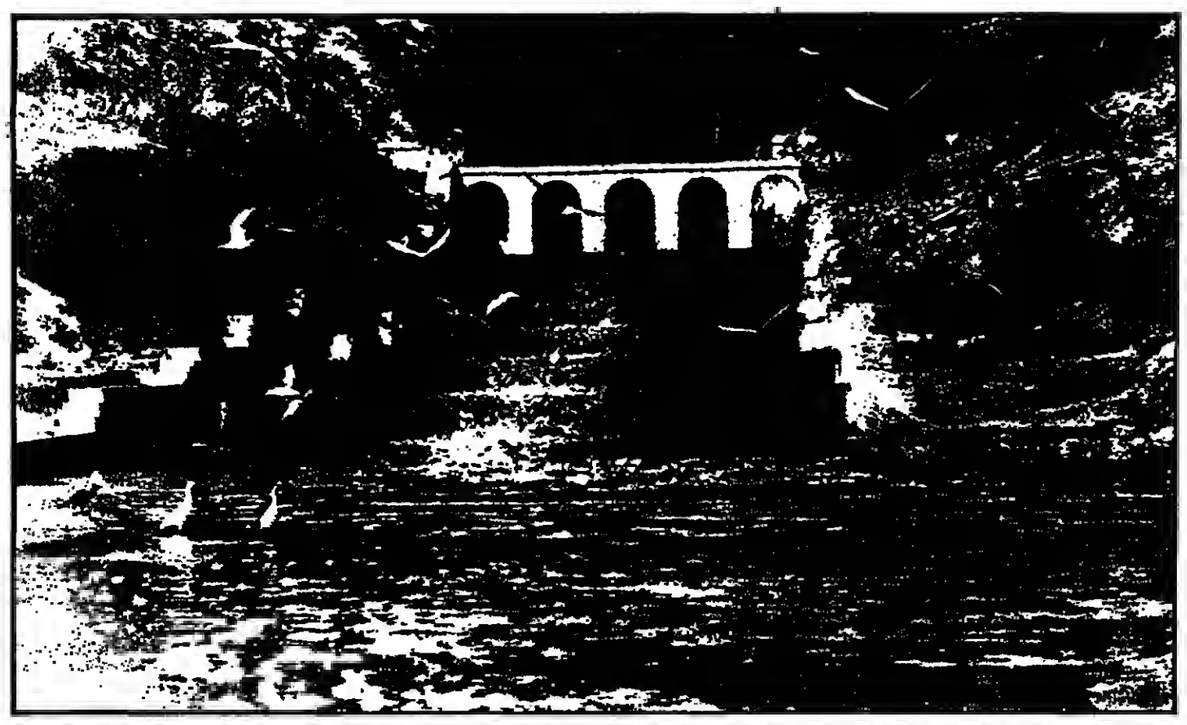
Despite the growing threats of disease, popular belief in the Ganga's purity and healing powers remains strong. In seeking the source of this belief, Dr. S.K. Ghosh, of the Department of Geology at Patna University, analysed Ganga water and found small quantities of radon, a colourless radioactive element, perhaps picked up by the Ganga when it flows over radioactive rocks in the upper Himalayan region near its source.

Dr. Ghosh feels that the radon, also found in the curative hot springs of many health resorts, may help neutralise river pollutants.

So long as the contamination of the Ganga by sewage and industrial waste is kept below a certain point, nature's mechanisms do appear to help the river to live up to its religious reputation.

But the Ganga's ability to purify itself is limited, says Dr. Ghosh. "The river can take the pollutants to a great extent. Beyond that, all hell will break loose."

Unless waste dumping is controlled soon, pilgrims will take home vials filled with an increasingly contaminated and virulent fluid. Already a source of much illness, the Ganga's "water of life" threatens to become a focus of lethal infection on an as yet unwitnessed scale — Earthscan feature.



Varanasi (Benares), India: untreated sewage pours into the holy Ganga next to the spot where pilgrims conduct ritual bathing (Earthscan photo)

West Germans are considering speed limit as forests die

By Floris Van Straaten
Reuter

BONN — Drivers who roar down West Germany's autobahns at speeds of more than 200 kilometres per hour are nervously awaiting the results of an inquiry which may deprive them of their cherished and unique right to drive as fast as they like.

Prompted by a public outcry over the death of large tracts of forest, experts are carrying out tests to establish whether speeding cars emit substantially more toxic fumes than more moderate road users.

The results are not due until November, but newspapers and pressure groups have already begun fierce debate on the issue at the heart of the inquiry — whether speed limits should finally be clamped on the country's vast motorway network.

Pressed by environmentalists who argue that fast cars bear a large responsibility for the deterioration of West Germany's woodland, the Transport Ministry began measuring emissions on 17 stretches of autobahn last January.

By the end of November data will have been gathered for all seasons and the government will then have to decide whether or not to impose speed restrictions.

West Germany is the last country in Europe where drivers may travel as fast as their cars can go, and most owners of Porsches, which can reach speeds of 250 kilometres per hour (KPH), BMWS and Mercedes would like to keep it this way.

Whatever the outcome of the inquiry, the government risks alienating many supporters whatever decision it makes.

The West Germans are perhaps more fanatically wedded to fast cars than any other European nation. But at the same time they have what some see as an almost mystical attachment to their forests which dates back for centuries.

A decision to enforce restrictions could also embarrass Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who has declared in the past that no speed limit would be introduced as long as he was in power.

Public opinion is split on the issue. In a poll last November, 45 per cent of those asked said they favoured a speed limit of 100 KPH on motorways and of 80 KPH on secondary roads, where there is presently a 100 KPH limit, forty-two per cent opposed limits.

However, among car drivers the percentage of those opposed to restrictions was 51, only 39 per cent favoured a limit.

Police figures show that about 25 per cent of West German drivers regularly exceed 130 KPH, the maximum speed recommended by the government.

The radical Greens Party has promised a major campaign in November to back up demands for a speed limit and focus public attention on the deterioration of West German forests.

"A speed limit alone cannot save the forests, but it is the only measure which will instantly reduce the air pollution," said Greens member of parliament Heiner Lohman.

Mr. Lohman has no doubt that fast driving contributes to the death of the forests. He quotes a report by the West Berlin Federal Office for the Environment that speed restrictions would reduce the amount of nitric oxides by approximately 150,000 tonnes, or some 12 per cent, a year.

"Drivers must break the habit of putting their foot down as far as it will go," he said.

One of the most powerful opponents of this view is the West German car industry, one of the country's biggest employers. It maintains unrestricted speed on the autobahns is an incentive to product quality and safety.

"The reason many Americans and other foreigners are ready to pay a lot of money for German cars is that they know cars suitable to drive at great speed in West Germany must be very safe and powerful," a spokesman for the West German Automobile Industry Association said.

"A speed limit could have a retrogressive technical impact," he said, adding that cars had not been proved to contribute significantly to the death of the forests. Industrial pollution was much more serious.

Some people even say pollution is not responsible for the decline of the trees at all and blame an unidentified virus.

Arguments in favour of imposition of a speed limit are now based entirely on the plight of the forests. The Greens say more than half the country's woodland is now diseased.

The reasons put forward in the past for a limit — safety and energy saving — never found wide support, as petrol prices stabilised in the 1980s and the autobahns are relatively safe.

According to official figures about 700 people were killed in motorway crashes in 1984 out of a total of just over 10,000 who died in all car accidents.

European business backs Eureka, but wants more details

By Paul Mylrea
Reuter

LUXEMBOURG — Europe's ambitious project to catch up in the race for the world's lucrative high-technology market has won strong political backing from 17 nations and sparked interest in one of the group's main competitors, Japan.

But the French-inspired project, named Eureka and officially launched at a meeting of European foreign and research ministers in Paris last month, remains without finance or management.

A Reuter survey of the 17 nations who attended the Paris meeting shows European business is also strongly in favour, but still hesitant about committing itself to the project, which so far exists only on paper.

A spokesman for West Germany's Siemens said it is impossible for high-tech firms to indicate what they will do in Eureka as long as nobody knows what the project will look like.

"The Paris meeting remained without content and we now wait for the governments to show us something concrete," said another West German industry source who declined to be named.

The decision by Britain, Italy and West Germany to go ahead without France and Spain on building a jet fighter for the 1990s is also seen by diplomatic observers in Paris as a blow to hopes for European Cooperation to plug the high-tech gap.

Eureka followed an offer by President Reagan for allied countries to help develop his 26-billion-dollar high-tech Strategic Defence Initiative, or "Star Wars" plan.

President Mitterrand then launched Eureka, as a civilian effort. But diplomats said it was seen as a way of halting a brain drain to the U.S. and of boosting research in Europe.

A key advantage for Europe, pinpointed by the European Commission in a study in June, is the size of its own market.

The value of the advanced telecommunications market alone in the European Community is estimated by commission officials at $110 billion in the next 10 years. And Eureka also includes Sweden, Finland, Norway, Austria and Switzerland as well as new community members Spain and Portugal.

David Thomas, a director of the British government-funded Alvey Programme to encourage high-tech research, said Europe has a lot of exceptionally good technical expertise in fields such as artificial intelligence where it is well ahead of Japan.

But fragmented national programmes, differing technical standards and border restrictions have handicapped producers.

U.S. and Japanese firms now dominate the world computer market, with only one European firm, West Germany's Siemens, in the top ten, and U.S. firms AT and T and ITT leading the field in telecommunications.

Mediocre industrial performance has eroded Europe's trade surplus in high-tech products and commission officials noted even its $1.5 billion surplus in telecommunications each year is based on traditional and largely outmoded equipment.

Firms in West Germany, France and Britain have all backed Eureka, but a key to their participation is the question of funding, industry sources in the three countries said.

West German sources said Eureka will only be meaningful if governments contribute substantially and they criticised Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber's recent announcement that he expected firms to carry most of the cost of projects.

French private industry also remains cautious until finance is agreed, although several notable contracts have been drawn up under Eureka in France, most involve state-owned firms.

Funding was on the agenda in Paris but a decision was put off until another Eureka conference in Germany later this year.

The British employers organisation, the Confederation of British Industry, said Eureka is not yet developed enough to involve firms.

A spokesman for the computer firm ICL also raised concern that the project may be hampered by bureaucracy.

Diplomats here said agreement that France, West Germany and the European Commission in Brussels should prepare the next conference camouflages disagreement on whether Eureka should be run by a coordinating body under community control or on a case by case basis.

Slozil wins Austrian tournament

KITZBUEHEL, Austria (AP) — Czechoslovakia's Pavel Slozil wore down Michael Westphal of West Germany to post a 7-5, 6-2 victory in the finals of the head cup Austrian Open tennis tournament Sunday.

Slozil controlled the second set with precisely placed shots to the far corners of the court and Westphal, 20, was forced on the defensive. The 29-year-old Czechoslovak takes $24,000 for the triumph.

Slozil, ranked 100th worldwide, was down 5-3 in the first set when his opponent double-faulted on a set point. The Czechoslovak then started to control the match, taking 99 minutes to win.

"I must learn to defend a lead," a downcast Westphal said afterward. He had been the main West German hope after the surprise defeat of countryman Boris Becker, the Wimbledon champion, in the first round.

On his way to Sunday's finals Slozil, the no. 3 seed, defeated Aaron Krickstein of the U.S. Davis Cup team, fellow Czech Karel Novacek, Alexander Antonitsch of Austria and Spain's Sergio Casal.

In doubles finals action, Sergio Casal and Emili Sanchez of Spain downed Italy's Claudio Panatta and Paolo Cane 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

Lendl, McEnroe to contest Stratton Grand Prix title

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vermont (R) — Ivan Lendl outbattled Jimmy Connors in the third set Saturday to advance to a finals match against John McEnroe in the Stratton Mountain Grand Prix men's tennis tournament.

Lendl, the second seed, defeated the third-seeded Connors 6-0, 4-6, 6-4 in his semifinals test. The top-seeded McEnroe had earlier posted an easy 6-2, 6-3 victory against unseeded American Robert Seguso to move into the finals.

The Lendl-Connors match was a delight to the more than 10,000 fans in attendance.

The lanky Czechoslovak simply dominated Connors in the first set, pounding him from back court. But Connors, who rarely shies away from a challenge, battled back in the second set, breaking Lendl at 5-4 to take the set 6-4.

In the final set, games went to four-all with Lendl's temper flaring after he had asked for the removal of a linesman and was refused. Connors had had an official removed in the first set and Lendl demanded equal treatment.

But it was Connors who went down love-40 in his service game and despite fighting back to deuce. Lendl broke him to go ahead 5-4.

Connors saved two match points on Lendl's serve to bring the score to deuce, but Lendl clinched the match with an ace down the centre line on his third match point.

After the match, Connors said he felt he could have beaten Lendl if the match had been best-of-five sets instead of the best-of-three.

"I've had greater success against Lendl in the longer matches," Connors said. He said he would particularly like to beat Lendl "for personal reasons," but would oot elaborate.

McEnroe, who has yet to lose a set in the tournament, outclassed the unseeded Seguso and never looked threatened by his less experienced opponent.

For Seguso, who plays Davis Cup doubles for the United States, it was his best success in singles thus far.

McEnroe's only problems in the match were with the officiating.

"I had some trouble with the umpire," McEnroe said. "But that's nothing new. He made some mistakes. But I made a few mistakes myself out there. I'm just trying to get away from all that and be more relaxed on court."

Seguso later redeemed himself in doubles when he and American partner Ken Flach pulled out a close doubles semifinal, beating Australian third seeds John Fitzgerald and Wally Masur 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (7-4).

Facing Flach and Seguso, the top seeds, in the doubles final will be unseeded Americans Scott Davis and David Pate. They upset the fourth-seeded pair of American Paul Annacone and Christo van Rensburg of South Africa 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3).

Nigeria wins under-16 soccer championship

PEKING (R) — Nigeria scored a goal in each half to beat West Germany 2-0 Sunday and win the International Football Federation's (FIFA) first under-16 world championship.

Salisu Nakade put his side 1-0 up three minutes into the match and the Africans had to ward off relentless West German pressure before they clinched the triumph with a goal through Sani Adamu one minute from time.

West Germany were well coordinated but seemed to lack the stamina of the Nigerians in the sweltering heat of Peking's workers' stadium. Goalkeeper Lucky Agbonsevafe enjoyed a fine match and saved Nigeria several times.

West Germany's Marcel Wieczek finished as the tournament's highest scorer with eight goals, including two hat-tricks, plundered from the first five matches.

Brazil crushed Guinea 4-1 to win the third-place in the tournament.

Soviets retain European water polo title

SOFIA (R) — The Soviet Union retained their European water polo gold medal when they held Olympic champions Yugoslavia to a 7-7 draw (1-1, 5-3, 6-6) in the final round of the championship Sunday.

The champions won five games in group A competition this week, dropping points only to the Yugoslavs, who took the silver medal, and to bronze medallists West Germany. The Soviet Union finished with 12 points, to 11 for the Yugoslavs.

Yugoslavia were within two minutes 22 seconds of the gold before the Soviet team came back from 7-6 down with a deflected shot in the final period to grab the draw.

Yugoslav goalkeeper Milorad Krivokapic, who had been outstanding against the Italians, fended off several Soviet attempts on goal.

Yugoslavia made Sunday's match the decisive encounter of the tournament when they beat Italy 10-9 Saturday night.

Jordan plays Syria in basketball semi-finals

RABAT (R) — Syria will meet Jordan, and Tunisia will be pitted against Iraq in the pan-Arab Games men's basketball semi-finals on Tuesday.

In the women's tournament, Algeria has a two-point lead over Morocco and Syria, with one more game each to be played on Monday.

Syria beat Somalia Saturday night 93-69 (half-time 42-34) to end on top of group B, including also Algeria and South Yemen.

Mauritania took the best over Morocco in a closely-fought group A game Saturday night to win 94-88 (half-time 46-41).

Tunisia ended top of group A, followed by Mauritania, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

Jordan dominated the smaller group D including Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, while Iraq, who on Saturday trounced North Yemen 157-30, proved the best team in group C including Kuwait, Lebanon and North Yemen.

In the women's competition, involving six countries in a single group, the Algerian girls remain unbeaten.

Algeria, thanks to their chief tactician Salhi, scored their fourth victory in a row when they beat Tunisia 68-48 (halftime 34-25) on Saturday despite spirited play by the Tunisians.

Japan beats Hong Kong in World Cup qualifier

KOBE, Japan (R) — Japan scored twice within a minute early in the first half and went on to beat Hong Kong 3-0 halftime (2-0) in a second round first leg match of the World Cup soccer Asian qualifying group Sunday.

The win, before a crowd of some 19,000, moved Japan within sight of meeting South Korea for a place in the 1986 World Cup finals.

South Korea are already assured of a place in the tie to decide one of Asia's two World Cup finalists after disposing of Indonesia.

Andes, not the Alps, to host World Cup skiing season

ZURICH (R) — The World Cup skiing season gets off to an unusually early start next week in unfamiliar surroundings — not in the Alps but the Andes.

The first races of the 1985-86 season will be in the new Argentine ski resort of Las Lenas where men's downhill races will be staged on August 15 and 17. A third downhill race will be held in nearby Bariloche on August 24.

The choice of an August start has been highly controversial. Many national teams wondered whether there was any need to make the long trip. Chile withdrew from hosting an early race, worried by the high costs.

Then there was snow — or the lack of it. While a freak summer snow storm hit the Swiss Alps this week, the Argentine Andes, where it is now the depths of winter, were still bare at 2,200 metres (7,250 feet).

Recent snowfalls in the area make it look likely the competition will be able to go ahead, though only one of the courses at Las Lenas has been prepared and the Bariloche event may be moved to Las Lenas.

Nearly all the top skiers will attend, led by Marc Giradelli, the Austrian who skis for Luxembourg and who won last season's overall title. He is the first seed, followed by previous holder Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, the world champion, and Helmut Hofelehner of Austria, who won the World Cup downhill title last season.

The only leading contender expected to be absent is Olympic champion Bill Johnson of the United States, who has had injury problems in addition to differences with the U.S. team over his dabblings with a professional circuit.

Most have already arrived in Argentina to train for the new season which will be even longer and more demanding than before. After the Argentine opening, the World Cup skiing circus moves to the Alps in December, then to Scandinavia before winding up in North America in March.

No women's events are set for this early trip to the Andes. Their season will start, as usual, in December.

These are the first world competitions in the southern hemisphere since the 1966 World championships in Portillo, Chile, when Jean-Claude Killy and his French teammates dominated by winning 16 of the 24 medals.

Some European and North American teams have, however, trained and raced in Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Argentina while ski resorts north of the Equator were having their summer lull.

During the 1970s, many ski areas in the southern hemisphere sought to stage World Cup races in July and August. But the International Ski Federation (FIS) rejected the idea because of uncertainly whether conditions could match those in Europe and North America.

In addition, few national skiing federations believed there was really a demand for winter sports when interest from the public and from television in the northern hemisphere was clearly on summer events.

Many team officials were unwilling to font the cost of the long travel, preferring to concentrate their resources on the classic events.

But in the last few years the situation has changed. The Argentine creation of Las Lenas in May 1983 1,000 kms (625 miles) west of Buenos Aires offered a modern and comfortable ski area which now has hotels to sleep 2,000 people.

"It's really a great place here," said Karl Frehsner, head coach of the Swiss national team. "You can find all kinds of pistes to train, and the weather is mostly fine. The racers have better facilities than on the glaciers of the Alps or in New Zealand."

Frehsner helped convince FIS authorities to try opening the season in the southern hemisphere. "It's winter there in August. Why should the best skiers in the world be out of action during this period," he asked.

But only a few other trainers were as enthusiastic as Frehsner, even if they thought good skiing during the northern summer would be indispensible to their skiers' progress.

Nor were the competitors too happy, fearing the ski equipment makers would not provide the same technical and financial support they do during the normal season in the north.

But gradually most of these objections were overcome, estimates of travel and lodging costs looked reasonable, while television networks in Europe and North America agreed to take pictures from Argentine television.

In Europe, the races will be broadcast live or in delayed form in Switzerland, Britain, Austria, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

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Please contact Ministry of Tourism, Department of Administration.

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Please contact 627396 or 638299/Amman between 3-7 afternoons.

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Location: Shmeisani, opposite the Birds Garden (preferably to be let to a family)
Call: 665459 Amman

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Cinema **CONCORD**
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PRIVATE SCHOOL
(Colour)
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **AL-HUSSEIN**
Tel: 22117
GOLEEN QUEENS SOMMNDO
(Colour)
Performances. 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema **RAINBOW**
Tal: 625155
THE FINAL COUNTDOWN
Performances: 3:00, 6:00, 9:00

Cinema **OPERA**
Tel: 675573
SOMEONE LIKE YOU
Performances: 3:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30.
Abdali, behind ALIA offices

Cinema **PALESTINE**
Tal: 22117
THE TWINS
BRUCE LEE THE INVINCIBLE
(Colour)
Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema **RAGHADAN**
Tel: 22198
THE WOLVES FOREST
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(Colour)
Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Cinema **Philadelphia**
GOODBYE MY LOVE
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TEL. 34144-34149

China faces problems of over-success

PEKING (R) — China's booming economy has set alarm bells ringing in Peking where the country's economic mandarins are grappling with the problems of over-success.

Economic reforms initiated by Chinese leader Mr. Deng Xiaoping have triggered an unprecedented surge in wages, prices, production and retail sales, according to official statistics.

In the past six months industrial output rocketed 23.1 per cent, nearly three times the planned eight per cent target for 1985, and the world's most populous country has gone on a spending spree after new wage rises, with retail sales jumping 29.1 per cent.

But success has brought new problems.

Imports of refrigerators, cars, television sets and motorcycles have clogged China's ports, its railways are so congested that there are serious steel and coal shortages, while one factory in four is idle at any one time because of electricity cuts.

The high-speed growth of industry is continuing despite government efforts announced in March by Premier Zhao Ziyang and Finance Minister Wang Bingqian to dampen the economy with a credit squeeze and by checking a rise in money supply.

Mr. Zhao said China was aiming for balanced growth and was "not slamming on the brakes or making a big readjustment".

But the failure to slow the growth rate has led some foreign economists to suggest the economy is spiralling out of control with the government unwilling to take the measures necessary to produce more stable growth.

Chinese economists have also warned of the dangers of the economy overheating, with supply of electricity and raw materials failing to keep up with the surge in industrial output.

China's super-growth has created serious transport bottlenecks. Last month the government announced urgent measures to ease a crisis at major harbours where more than 500 ships are now waiting to load or unload.

Port officials in Peking said a rapid increase in imports over the past few months had led to the long-jam and said the army was being asked to provide port and warehouse facilities to ease the situation.

Although state quotas for energy and transport were overfulfilled, they failed to match industrial growth.

Output of coal, China's main fuel, rose 11.8 per cent while electricity production increased by 9.1 per cent in the past six months. Railway freight rose by just 4.9 per cent, said Mr. Zhao Weichen, vice-minister of the State Economic Commission which oversees economic development.

Measures to curb the money supply have led China to dig deeply into foreign exchange reserves to buy consumer goods from abroad to mop up excess liquidity.

Foreign exchange reserves fell to $11.26 billion at the end of March, compared with a record $16.67 billion last September.

Steps to encourage saving have increased domestic bank deposits but, despite restrictions on credit, domestic bank loans rose 23 per cent in the same period, according to government figures.

A spokesman for the State Statistical Bureau attributed the leap in industrial output to "sharply expanding capital construction, rapid growth of consumption funds and overheated expansion pursued by some enterprises".

Peking's official press recently printed a call by the State Economic Commission for factories to concentrate on improving the quality of industrial products and not just to go for all-out growth.

China needs a growth rate of a little over seven per cent a year to achieve its target of quadrupling industrial and agricultural output between 1980 and the year 2000.

Under the reforming leadership of Mr. Deng Xiaoping China is steering away from the ultra-leftist policies of the late chairman Mao Tsetung.

Soviet-style central planning is being reduced in favour of a system in which supply and demand have a greater influence. Rural communes have been abolished.

The latest reforms were announced last October, extending the highly successful changes in the countryside, which resulted in record harvests, to industry and the towns.

But the new liberal policies triggered a wages and credit boom in December after more than 30 years of austerity.

While the government has warned that too high growth could damage the reform programme, it has yet to find a way of dampening the economy without going back on the reforms themselves.

Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad N. Batshon

AMMAN — The dollar continued to fall on Monday against major European currencies. This fall was the continuation of Friday's weakness.

The only currency to weaken against the dollar was the British pound and that was in response to lower British interest rates and the possibility of oil price cuts.

A huge U.S. government financing operation, that was due to begin on Monday and continue during the week was likely to increase pressure for higher U.S. interest rates. The U.S. unemployment figure released on Friday remained at 7.3 per cent, the same as the June figure. This suggested that the expected economic upturn has yet to occur.

The metals markets rose in reaction to the weakening dollar. Gold closed in N.Y. at 321.70 an ounce higher $1.50. Silver closed at $6.195 an ounce.

On Tuesday the U.S. dollar strengthened after a brief fall which was mostly to the news that President Reagan had a patch of skin cancer removed from his nose. The small fall showed how nervous the market was.

The British pound was the only major European currency to strengthen against the dollar. This was due to the announcement by Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani, that his country would hold August oil production at 2.5 million barrels a day.

The metals market was steady, rising only $1 an ounce to close in N.Y. at $322.70. Silver closed at $6.16 an ounce lower than Monday's close.

The dollar rose against most major foreign currencies on Wednesday, because traders seemed convinced that the month-long slide had ended, at least for the short term.

The hardest hit was the British pound which fell more than three U.S. cents to $1.3250, which technically saying was a rate that the sterling left behind before six weeks ago.

Gold and silver on the metals market remained quiet most of the day's trading. Gold closed in N.Y. $2 an ounce lower at $320.70. Silver closed at $6.125 an ounce, also slightly lower.

On Thursday, the dollar weakened, but only slightly. The British pound was the only currency to weaken also against the dollar despite the intervention by the Bank of England.

It was a very thin market where the dollar was trading at around two German pfennigs throughout the day.

The metals market rose slightly to close at $322.50 an ounce in gold. Silver closed higher at $6.145 an ounce.

On Friday a huge drop in the dollar against all European currencies, especially the Swiss franc, was in reaction to traders squaring up positions prior to the weekend.

The announcement that M1, the basic U.S. money supply measure, rose $1.3 billion in the previous week did not effect the market because the increase was exactly what was expected.

Some economists feel that the current rapid money growth will prompt the Federal Reserve to tighten its credit grip, and push interest rates higher.

The dollar fell to the level of 2.7960/70 to the Deutsche mark, and 2.3000/15 to the Swiss franc, and $1.3750 to the British pound, the lowest it hit during the last two weeks.

On the metals market, the gold gained on the dollar's weakness in N.Y. to close at $327.50-$328 an ounce. Silver was also higher to close at $6.19-$6.21 an ounce.

Following are Friday's N.Y. closing rates as the federal fund rates traded at 7.25 per cent.

The dollar closed at 2.8025/35 to the Deutsche mark, 2.3135/50 to the Swiss franc, $137.0020 to the British pound, 8.6650/00 to the French franc, and 237.25/35 to the Japanese yen.

Japan overrides U.S. bond markets

NEW YORK (R) — Flush with U.S. dollars from booming export sales around the globe, Japan — which last week announced a record monthly trade surplus with the United States in July — has become a major force in American bond markets.

Last week the U.S. Treasury auctioned a record $21.75 billion worth of bonds, repayable over three to 30 years, to help finance the federal budget deficit.

Brisk demand from across the Pacific helped ensure all the bonds were bought without interest rates having to go higher to attract investors, financial analysts said.

Some market experts now say it could be impossible to hold a successful treasury bond auction without Japanese participation.

"In the past six months, the Japanese have become able to move the securities market," said Mr. Ron Liesching, a Chase Manhattan Bank capital markets' vice president.

In effect, the Reagan administration's ability to go on financing its $200 billion federal budget deficit — the shortfall, between tax receipts and budgeted expenditure — now hangs in part on the continued willingness of Japanese savers to buy U.S. treasury bonds.

Official figures due later this month are expected to show that Japanese net buying of foreign bonds leapt to a record $9 billion in July, up from $6.85 billion in June, with the lion's share going to the United States.

Economists and bond traders point to two key factors that have pushed Japanese investors into the financial limelight.

First, Japan is deluged with foreign currency, mostly dollars, from sales of its goods abroad.

Japan's balance of payments current account surplus — the difference between the value of goods and services exported and imported — in the first half of this year was over $20 billion, up from some $14.5 billion in the first half of 1984.

Figures issued recently showed the surplus with the United States alone reached a record $3.7 billion in July.

Mr. Steven Cerier, an Asian-currency analyst at the U.S. bank Manufacturers Hanover Trust, estimates that about 75 per cent of the surplus money is invested in U.S. securities.

"I don't see what alternative there is for them. Where else are they going to put their money?" Mr. Cerier said.

Secondly, U.S. securities markets are currently regarded by Japanese investors as able to accommodate the large amounts of surplus savings that are seeking a secure home.

Rates of return of yields on U.S. securities are as much as four percentage points higher than those on Japanese issues after allowing for inflation. That helps protect investors from losses if the dollar declines in value against the yen.

Demand for U.S. treasury securities has also been spurred by deregulation of Japanese financial markets, due in part to pressure by Washington on Tokyo over the past 18 months, the analysts said.

In June the Japanese authorities lifted a ban on purchases by Japanese investors of discounted or zero-coupon bonds — a popular device used by companies to raise capital for investments that will only pay for themselves in the future.

U.S. securities dealers are looking forward to Tokyo letting Japanese pension fund managers double the current 10 per cent limit on holdings in non-yen securities, possibly before the end of the year.

In expectation of greater investment in U.S. securities, American banks and securities firms are stepping up their presence in Japan.

In expectation of greater investment in U.S. securities, American banks and securities firms are stepping up their presence in Japan.

Japan has given trust banking licences to eight foreign banks, including several from the United States, while Sumitomo Bank has announced plans to open a trust bank in New York.

Further evidence of the Japanese settling into the U.S. markets came last week when Nomura Securities announced it would apply to become one of the select group of primary U.S. government securities dealers.

Nomura, if successful, would become the first foreign bank to operate a primary dealing firm directly in the United States.

A spokesman for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said it has no rules which would specifically prevent a foreign bank for becoming a primary dealer.

A further sign of the importance of Japanese investment is that the U.S. market is showing heightened sensitivity to news from Tokyo.

Earlier last week bond prices tumbled after a report that the Japanese finance ministry had closed a loophole in banking rules about purchases of dollar-denominated securities.

Lower prices in the bond market mean borrowers have to pay higher rates of interest to attract lenders.

In this case, the affair proved transitory.

Financial analysts, after examining the small print of the Tokyo report, declared that the official move would have little effect and bond prices recovered.

But Tokyo foreign bond traders said that while buying was active in the first half of last month, it slowed in the second half on fears of a sharp rise in the yen's value against other major currencies.

Simex boosts business with prizes

SINGAPORE — Nine months after the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) started financial futures trading, Mr. Ng Kok Song, its chairman, has given the first official verdict on its growth so far. His conservative judgment — "satisfactory" — is echoed by market users.

Simex is Asia's first financial futures exchange and is unique in having a "mutual offset" link with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, an arrangement which paves the way for round-the-clock global futures trading.

Like all futures exchanges, Simex's principal purpose is to offer an opportunity for hedgers to manage risk.

When it opened last September, Simex offered a three-month Eurodollar interest rate contract and a U.S. dollar-D-mark foreign currency contract. Two months later, trading began in a second currency contract, for the U.S. dollar against the yen.

All three financial instruments followed the start of gold futures trading in Singapore some six years earlier.

Figures for the number of contracts traded show an underlying growth over the first eight months, despite a seasonal hiccough in December and other dips in reaction to specific market factors. Total daily volume topped 2,000 by January, and the aim is 4,000 before the end of the year. Simex's best single day yet has been a volume of 4,158.

Of this figure, fully 3,207 were accounted for by the Eurodollar contract, and Mr. Ng says in Simex's annuork ABC after holding him captive for five days.

On the same day gunmen in the South freed Robert Burkholder, a Canadian employed by a North-American based aid organisation, after questioning for 14 hours.

Mr. Doumani's abduction coincided with two bomb attacks on restaurants in Kuwait that killed ten people and wounded more than 80.

Responsibility was claimed by a group called "the Arab Revolutionary Brigades Organisation" that accused a number of Kuwaiti officials of corruption.

Diplomats and foreigners have been a frequent target for kidnappers in Lebanon. More than 20 foreigners have been abducted, and seven Americans, four Frenchmen, a Briton and an Iranian are still missing.

al report published recently that this contract has shown the fastest growth. The D-mark contract has shown "modest success," he says, while the yen and gold contracts hve been "disappointing" and "lacklustre."

One experienced analyst of futures markets points out that contracts are most successful when relative volatility is superimposed on what is basically a bullish trend in the traded item.

In the case of Simex, the Eurodollar and D-mark contracts have benefited recently from perceptions that U.S. interest rates and the U.S. dollar may have reversed paths. In the process banks and institutions have tried to hedge their interest rate and exchange rate risks.

By contrast the yen contract has attracted less interest, partly because the currency has been more stable than the D-mark, but also because Japanese residents are not yet permitted to deal in foreign futures exchanges. As for the gold contract, this is reckoned to have reflected investors' preference for financial assets.

The different performances neatly illustrate what many Simex participants call its "chicken-and-egg" problem.

In the case of the yen and gold, an absence of volatility has dampened interest, but a lack of interest has meant little business can be done. The "locals" — the individual Simex members who stand ready to accept risks others wish to hedge — have gravitated naturally to the Eurodollar and D-mark contracts.

The mutual offset link with Chicago, under which positions opened on one exchange can be closed on the other, was intended, at least from Singapore's point of view, to help remedy this liquidity problem, and to judge from the figures it has. Simex says 30 per cent of its trading volume is accounted for by its members executing trades for customers of the Chicago exchange.

Just how well Simex's locals are doing, however, is difficult to gauge.

Of the total of 130-30 to 40 are constantly active in the pits. Others are still learning, while still others have dropped out of sight, apparently holding on to their seats as an investment. Up to half a dozen are reckoned to have lost most or all of their working capital.

According to Mr. Ng, if 15-20 locals survive to become seasoned traders in three years' time, "we can count ourselves fortunate." Because so many have already turned out to be inactive, however, the exchange is making available a further 150 seats — on top of the initial 300. All are aimed at attracting new locals.

Nikkei average to be introduced

Simex's next step is to introduce a Japanese stock index futures contract using the Nikkei average of 225 shares quoted on the Tokyo stock exchange. This is plainly a less "real" financial futures instrument than the four existing items, and elsewhere such contracts have attracted mostly speculative interest. But that is precisely why it might prove a boost for Simex, because it should stimulate speculative support from locals.

Whether anyone else will be interested is another matter. Currently there are few close watchers of the Japanese stock market in Singapore, while the Japanese themselves are limited in what they can do abroad.

Either way, Simex is planning to charge locals less to trade exclusively in the stock index contract.

In the meantime, the Singapore government, ever concerned about the integrity of its financial institutions, is still in the process of drafting special legislation to regulate the futures business in the island state.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day brings you beneficial ideas for adding to your welfare and happiness and also a chance to see a way to increase the value of your property.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) As the new weeks begins, be sure to follow through with promises you have made to your family.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle your routines most efficiently and get much done during the daytime. Then make time to visit with friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get busy with property affairs and make sure all is going well and if repairs are needed, plan to make them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get an early start on those personal interests that can bring you fine progress.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Plan the future quietly in such a way that you can have more happiness and success. Sit down with good advisors.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are able to be more analytical and discriminating now. Be sure to show good friends that you truly value them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An early start in the outside world of activity can bring you fine benefits. Contact a bigwig who can assist you with your talents.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Putting some new idea to work can bring fine success soon. If you meet someone of real character, plan to cultivate this person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are tuned in to fine persons today and can become more successful by getting to know them better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to be more understanding of a sensitive person and avoid hurt feelings. Be careful while working.

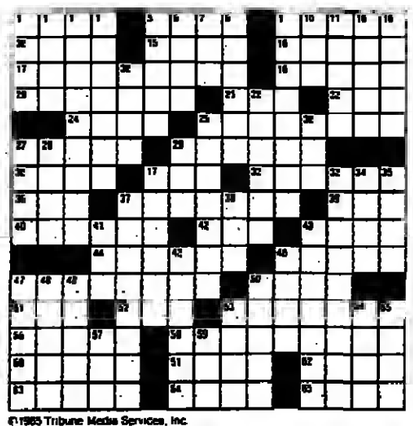
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Early tackle your work efficiently and you can accomplish a good deal, and get fine benefits.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Impress one in authority with your finest talents and get the backing you need. Take no risks where your credit is concerned.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she can bring much happiness to the family. It would be well to have many playmates around. Anything connected with merchandising will be good for your progeny. Slant the education along such lines. There will be much adeptness at the art of cooking.

THE Daily Crossword

by R.M. McWhirk



ACROSS
1 Pitfall
5 Catch the breath
9 Soft drinks
14 Jap. aborigine
15 Samoan city
16 Mature person
17 Achievers
19 Flavor
20 Celebrated in legend
21 Perched
23 Actress Merkel
24 Frees
25 Slipped back
27 Apennines country
29 Nautical
30 Armor piece
31 River island
32 Swiss lake
36 Audit man
37 Young lady's "prince"
39 19
40 Cossack
42 Pecan
43 Church area
44 Scrooge-like
46 Reference work
47 Garden features
50 Western school letters
51 Stop — dime
52 Slangy negative
53 Elevate
56 Best-selling book
58 Atlantic coast dweller
60 TV's "Kate and —"
61 Obi
62 Stones
63 Hollow stems
64 Weed
65 Blue-pencil

DOWN
1 Sale tickets
2 Uprising
3 Feline
4 Immature
5 Portals
6 Copied
7 Letter beginning
8 Football player
9 Clicking item
10 Harem room
11 Skin disease
12 By oneself
13 Violin for short
18 Shipshape
22 Step down
25 TV polls
26 Enclosure
27 Yearning
28 Record
29 Russ. community
31 Locker room item
33 Interpreted
34 Passport endorsement
35 Chopping tools
37 Afternoon performances
38 Fellow
41 Time zone letters
43 Free
45 Most recent
46 Field
47 Rounded
48 Old-womanish
49 Catalogue
50 — creek (in a predicament)
53 Soviet letters
54 Trucking vehicle
55 Formerly, once
57 Cover
59 Shoe width

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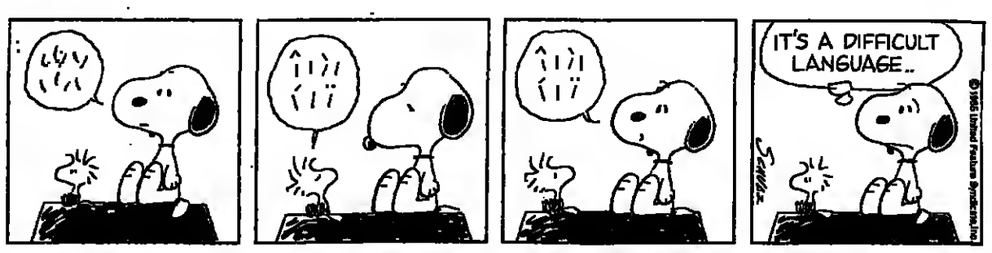
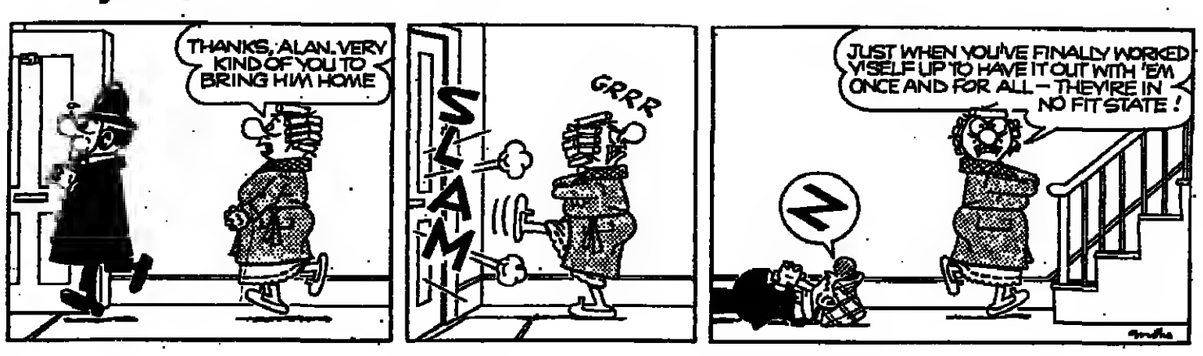
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

"I never cared for intellectuals. With Stanley it was love at first trite!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NEQUE

AFTEC

KRILLE

PELPIN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "— —"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEIGE PEONY DISCUS FORGET

Answer: What a murky fog gives drivers— THE "CREEPS"

Thousands attend Mxenge funeral; 7 more protesters die in Durban

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Thousands gathered under the flags of outlawed black guerrillas Sunday and buried civil rights lawyer Victoria Mxenge, whose assassination touched off protests that killed 62 blacks and injured about 500.

"There comes a time in a nation when people have to fight or submit. We cannot submit," Robin Geweta, an official of the South African Allied Workers Union, told 10,000 mourners standing in a dusty field and perched in trees around the wreath-covered coffin.

In Durban, where Mrs. Mxenge lived and where the violence occurred, King Edward VIII Hospital reported the deaths of seven more protest victims overnight, bringing the official total to 62 blacks killed since Wednesday. In addition, newspapers reported two Indians were killed.

National Police Headquarters in Pretoria said 36 of the victims were killed in police action and 19 others, most of them severely mutilated, died in clashes between rival black groups. The hospital said the latest deaths included two people brought in Saturday night and five admitted earlier with severe injuries.

King Edward Hospital and Prince Mshiyeni Memorial hospital said they treated nearly 200 injured blacks Saturday, most of them victims of the unrest. About 400 previously were reported injured in the outbreaks between blacks and Indians.

Mrs. Mxenge, 43, was gunned down on Aug. 1 by four black men in her driveway in Umlazi, a black township of Durban. She was representing 16 anti-apartheid activists on trial on charges of treason.

The funeral took place in Rayi township, about six kilometres from King William's Town, a rural centre in a region that for 150 years has spawned violent black resistance to white control. Black consciousness leader Steve Biko, who died in police custody in 1977, lived near King William's Town.

Rayi is in Ciskei, a tribal homeland declared independent by South Africa but unrecognised by the rest of the world. South African police manned a roadblock at the unmarked Ciskei border but there was no sign in Rayi of homeland police, who frequently cooperate with South African authorities in pursuing black militants.

Among the mourners were U.S. Appeals Court Judge Nathaniel Jones of the Cincinnati, Ohio, circuit, and white South African activists Molly Blackburn and Mr. and Mrs. Brian Bishop. The four were arrested Saturday at Fort Beaufort, 70-kilometres from King William's Town, on charges of illegally entering a black township covered by emergency regulations.

Judge Jones said they had been on a trip to investigate reports of police brutality. He said they were released pending a court appearance Monday in Fort Beaufort.

The South African Press Association said an Indian school was burned in Chatsworth, near Durban, early Sunday.

The protests that broke out Tuesday around Durban produced the most intense violence in a year of unrest in this white-ruled country.

An estimated 600 blacks have been killed nationwide in anti-apartheid violence since last August. About half were killed by police, and the others died in assaults on local black officials seen as collaborators with the white-minority government or in fights between rival black groups.

Police reported calm around South Africa at midday Sunday, with only a few minor incidents of violence. They said the burned body of a black man was found near Cradock, in eastern Cape province.

Police said a total of 1,600 people have been detained without charge under a three-week state of emergency that gives police wide powers of arrest, search and curfew in 36 protest-torn cities and towns. Of those detained, 696 were reported released and 909 still in custody.

CULTIST BURNS TO DEATH: Saying his god will protect him Rodrigo Maneja, 38, immolates himself Saturday before hundreds of spectators at a public plaza in Cebu City south of Manila, Philippines. Maneja asked his brother-in-law to pour gasoline on him (left), set him on fire (centre) and within seconds fire engulfed his entire body (right) (AP wirephoto)

Gandhi predicts sporadic terrorism in India for a long time to come

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said in an interview published Sunday India was likely to face terrorism for a long time, but that he had helped defuse tension in Punjab and Assam states and in Sri Lanka.

"I think the country has passed through the most traumatic phase post independence ... (but) we have come through it through the democratic process," Mr. Gandhi told the Statesman newspaper.

Mr. Gandhi was reviewing India's progress three days before it celebrates its 38th year of independence from British rule.

He also evaluated his own performance since succeeding his mother Indira, who was assassinated on Oct. 31.

The mood of the majority of the Sikhs had changed and the atmosphere was congenial in Punjab, Mr. Gandhi said, referring to a peace accord he signed with moderate Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal two weeks ago to end a three-year-old Sikh campaign for religous and political concessions.

"The most important (achievement) would be defusion of tension in Punjab. (But) the problem is by no means over. We might have to face sporadic terrorism for a long time to come," he said.

The accord was rejected by hardline Sikh leaders who said the pact did not meet their major demands.

But it was expected to reduce Punjab's extremist violence which spilled over into New Delhi and other surrounding areas last May when several people died in a spate of bomb blasts.

Mr. Gandhi said a solution was likely soon to end the crisis in north eastern Assam state where nearly 3,000 people have died in violence sparked by militant ethnic Assamese campaigning to evict what they say are 3.5 million illegal immigrants from Bangledesh.

Mr. Gandhi was expected to visit the state Monday to finalise an agreement between the militant leaders and his government, but the peace initiative appeared to stall after the protesters announced a strike on Independence Day.

On Sri Lanka, he said the situation had improved after peace talks in Bhutan last month between Sri Lankan officials and Tamil separatist guerrilla groups who met for the first time to settle an ethnic dispute.

India arranged the talks which start a second round in the Bhutanese capital of Thimphu Monday.

The meetings are aimed at resolving the island's crisis involving its Sinhalese majority and minority Tamils, whose hardline factions are waging a guerrilla war for independence.

"In Sri Lanka, we've managed to get the Tamils and the Sri Lankan government together. We would have liked the talks to have gone better ... (but) both parties are in a positive mood to do something," Mr. Gandhi said.

Tamil separatist groups attending the talks had rejected Sri Lankan proposals for a limited devolution of powers and said they would reiterate their original demands, including recognition of their status as a nationality.

Mr. Gandhi said exploitation by politicians had caused tensions in western Gujarat state, where nearly 237 people have died in the past five months during a militant campaign against a government policy reserving jobs and college places for members of underprivileged castes.

"I am not finding excuses. It is our shortcoming that we have not been able to control (tensions)," he added.

"The situation, I think, has changed tremendously, and of course economically we are looking ahead," Mr. Gandhi said.

U.S. to double Nicaraguan rebel force

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration, heartened by congressional approval for extra aid to Nicaraguan rebels, is hoping to more than double their fighting strength within a year, congressional and government sources say.

Earlier this month, Congress approved an administration request for an additional $27 million in non-military aid to rightist rebels fighting the ruling Sandinistas. President Reagan signed the aid package on Thursday.

The vote reversed congressional rejection of fresh aid to the rebels less than three months ago. Senior officials see the turnabout as evidence that Washington's hard-line policy on Nicaragua is gaining acceptance across party lines.

Administration officials now seem confident that the new vote will lead to further generous help, enough to at least double the strength of the rebels and help them to force the Sandinistas to the negotiating table.

Independent estimates put at around 12,000 the strength of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the biggest combat group fighting the government in Managua. Several smaller groups bring total rebel strength to around 14,000 or 15,000.

They are pitted against the 64,000-strong Sandinista army, the biggest in Central America, and have so far failed to achieve any of their publicly-stated objectives.

These include triggering a popular insurrection, seizing territory on which to declare a provisional government and forcing the Sandinistas into talks.

Estimates of the force needed to bring the Sandinistas to their knees range up to 45,000. Few officials or rebel leaders see such an increase as feasible in the short term but a doubling in size is thought possible.

Pope warns Camerounians against return to paganism

YAOUNDE (R) — Pope John Paul told Camerounians they risked a return to paganism because of the country's economic advancement when he arrived in Yaounde, the country's capital, on the third leg of his seven-nation African tour.

In a speech to priests, nuns and religious students soon after arriving in this West African state, the Pope told his listeners to lead Camerounian leaders to Christ.

"The Camerounian people can often be troubled by a technical civilisation where the sense of religion is weakened, they can also be tempted by a return to paganism," he said.

Speaking in the newly-renovated cathedral in Yaounde, the Pope repeated his support for the traditional Christian family.

He said Christians should "surmount the handicaps which traditional institutions or modern temptations can exert on sincerity and fidelity".

Earlier, some 10,000 well-wishers saw Cameroun's Catholic President Paul Biya welcome the Pope at Yaounde Airport on arrival from Abidjan, where the Pontiff had consecrated one of the world's biggest cathedrals in the Ivory Coast capital.

"For Camerounians you are not just a head of state... you are the incarnation of justice, dignity and hope among men and women," Gen. Biya said.

Pope John Paul said Cameroun, which has two official languages, English and French, and some 200 different tribes, was "an Africa in miniature, a melting pot of numerous races".

Cameroun's state radio announced Saturday Gen. Biya had decided to grant clemency to some detainees in the country's jails to coincide with the papal visit.

A brief announcement by the radio said Gen. Biya would grant "important measures of clemency in favour of certain detainees" but gave no other details.

In April 1984, Gen. Biya survived a bloody coup attempt by members of his Republican Guard who had been chosen by his predecessor, Ahmadou Ahidjo, to ensure presidential security.

Karmal orders local polls

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's President Babrak Karmal has ordered the start of local elections from Sunday in an apparent effort to bolster the Soviet-backed government in its fight against guerrillas.

He announced the elections suddenly over official Kabul Radio Saturday night without saying when they would end.

He said the councils must help stop guerrillas infiltrating from neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.

Afghan exile sources said the polls were another attempt to boost the government position, since guerrillas were hitting Kabul and other cities with rockets in a summer offensive.

The elections for local Jirgas or councils are the first since Marxists took power in a 1978 coup that toppled President Mohammad Doud, who was executed.

In April, the Afghan government convened a traditional tribal grand assembly to seek support against Islamic guerrillas fighting the government and an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Afghan guerrilla parties denounced the assembly as a farce.

Last month Afghanistan's Justice Minister Mohammad Bashir Baghlan said that Afghans aged 18 and over would directly elect councils in villages, districts and cities.

Mr. Karmal said in his broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, that the Revolutionary Council Presidium, which he heads, had approved the decree ordering the elections which he called a great historical event for the Afghan nation.

Mr. Karmal said stopping interference from Pakistan and Iran and fighting against counter-revolutionaries were the most important tasks before his government.

Referring to what he called imperialist interference in Afghanistan, Mr. Karmal said: "Our difficulties are many, our sorrows are more than our successes."

Bangladesh releases another politician

DHAKA (R) — Another Bangladesh opposition leader was freed from detention Sunday under a plan by military ruler President Hossain Mohammad Ershad to restore political activity soon, the government said.

K.M. Obaidur Rahman, a former minister under the assassinated President Ziaur Rahman was arrested last March accused of trying to disrupt local elections.

Mr. Rahman is a prominent leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a seven-party alliance, both of which are headed by Begum Khaleda Zia, the late president's widow.

He was released on Gen. Ershad's personal orders a day after the government freed Tofael Ahmad, a leader of the opposition Awami League and a 15-party alliance, who was also arrested in March.

No charges were laid against the men, but a government spokesman told reporters that they had been detained for their activities against Gen. Ershad's military government.

Mr. Rahman and Mr. Ahmad were involved in a campaign to try to stop controversial local council election last March which they said was designed to perpetuate Gen. Ershad's rule under a civilian facade.

More than 3,000 trainee doctors in Bangladesh called off a strike Sunday hours after a government warning that they would lose their training posts unless they returned to work.

The government said most of the trainees had gone back to their jobs in the country's hospitals, which were paralysed by the 34-day strike.

The trainees had stopped work indefinitely on July 8, demanding that the government guarantee them jobs from the day they started their training.

The authorities said the demands were unjustified, but it would try to hire the maximum number of trainees when they completed post-graduate training.

Meanwhile thousands of people evacuated from flooded villages in northern Bangladesh returned this week from relief camps only to find that their houses had been washed away, officials said.

They told reporters that erosion badly hit Serajganj District where at least 500 houses had been swallowed by the Jamuna River, although it was now flowing below danger level.

Sri Lankan peace talks resume today

COLOMBO (R) — Security forces went on alert in Sri Lanka following fresh ethnic clashes as peace talks were set to resume in Bhutan Monday.

Representatives of the government, five major guerrilla groups and the main Tamil political party were gathering in the Himalayan kingdom in a renewed effort to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities.

A first round of six days of talks in Bhutan's capital of Thimphu last month failed to make any progress, informed sources said.

The start of the second round was overshadowed by fresh clashes between guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state and government troops, despite a ceasefire arrangement.

At least 11 people, including five policemen, were killed in violence Saturday in the northern city of Vavuniya.

A group of influential Buddhist monks and opposition leaders made a joint appeal to President Junius Jayewardene to suspend the Bhutan talks until "terrorism" was wiped out.

But Mr. Jayewardene told his parliamentarians last week the government negotiators were going to Thimphu with hope.

Soviets 'working on genetic weapons'

WASHINGTON (R) — A secret U.S. report accuses Moscow of running a major biological weapons programme, apparently including genetic experiments to create deadly new life forms, according to U.S. officials.

They told Reuters the report by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other analysts said the programme broke the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention under which the Soviet Union, the United States and some other nations agreed not to produce or use biological weapons.

The Soviet Union has denied that it has a biological weapons programme and says it is complying with the treaty.

An unclassified version of the report called "Soviet Noncompliance With Arms Control Agreements" was released last year, but the conclusions about toxic weapons — based on satellite surveillance and other intelligence data — appeared in a secret version.

Reuters' account of the secret contents is based on conversations with U.S. officials who have studied the classified version.

Soviet scientists were accused of using genetic engineering techniques by tinkering with the heredity of living organisms to produce lethal combinations for possible use in warfare.

The officials said the report was unspecific about the experiments.

Genetic weapons raise some frightening prospects, including the creation of bacteria which will attack particular human organs — the eyes of enemy soldiers, for example — according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

U.S. scientists say other possibilities are weapons which could kill members of one race while sparing those of another or weapons which could debilitate an entire population, perhaps through dehydration, allowing an invading army to move in.

The U.S. Defence Department, which destroyed its biological weapons stocks in 1969, has been funding research on genetic engineering but says the work is strictly for "protective" purposes as allowed under the 1972 treaty.

Yet some arms control advocates have alleged the U.S. research exploits a loophole in the treaty.

In a 1984 book called "No fire, no thunder", three British academics who support the peace movement say there is evidence the United States has created "highly pathogenic organisms ... under the flag of medical or protective research."

Washington denies the accusation.

Greenpeace blast suspects reportedly are French officers

PARIS (R) — A couple charged in New Zealand with blowing up the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior were identified by French state radio as a captain and a major in the French Armed Forces.

France-Inter, whose report was unsourced but appeared to relay an official version, said the couple were sent to spy on the Greenpeace vessel but had nothing to do with the attack on July 10 which killed a photographer in the crew.

The radio said the couple, carrying false Swiss passports in the name of Alain-Jacques and Sophie-Claire Turenge, were respectively a major and a captain. It did not give their real names.

They did not work for France's intelligence service the DGSE but for another Defence Ministry unit charged with ensuring the security of France's nuclear tests, the radio said.

The Defence Ministry declined to comment on the radio report.

Informed sources said Defence Minister Charles Hernu visited President Francois Mitterrand for two hours at his country residence in south west France.

Mr. Hernu cancelled a trip to Japan due to start on Aug. 15 and French commentators linked the decision to the Rainbow Warrior case.

The government, instructed by Mr. Mitterrand to uncover the truth about possible French involvement in the affair, named respected senior Gaullist Bernard Tricot to head an investigation.

France-Inter gave what it said was the text of the orders given to the arrested couple at the start of their mission, which it described as "purely defensive."

They were told to: "1. Observe the make-up of the Greenpeace flotilla aimed at possible interference around the French nuclear test sites in Mururoa Atoll. 2. Transmit to those responsible for organising the tests any information which may help them deploy a preventive task force. 3. Try to identify the principal leaders of the expedition."

The radio said the surveillance mission was ordered because the Greenpeace ship was equipped with sophisticated radio equipment which could communicate with Eastern Europe as well as a computer.

Greenpeace has already denied that the Rainbow Warrior carried unusual sophisticated equipment.

The report said the photographer killed in the explosion, Fernando Pereira, was a member of a pro-Soviet Pacifist Movement.

The radio said the attack on the Rainbow Warrior did not involve the arrested couple and could have been carried out by third country to discredit France in the Pacific.

The attack may have been ordered by Britain as revenge for France's supply of Exocet missiles to Argentina during the Falklands (Malvinas) conflict in 1982, France-Inter said.

In London, the British Foreign Office expressed surprise at the French radio report. "We know nothing about this at all," a ministry spokesman told Reuters in response to the allegation that Britain might have been behind the attack on the Rainbow Warrior.

The report said the two other vessels which had been due to join the Greenpeace flotilla had also been sunk in Sydney harbour a week after the Rainbow Warrior.

The arrested couple were initially held in New Zealand on passport charges but were subsequently charged with arson and murder.

An open diplomatic crisis between France and New Zealand has so far been averted. President Francois Mitterrand wrote to Prime Minister David Lange on Thursday promising full cooperation with his investigation.

Mr. Lange said in Fiji Friday there was no proof of French government involvement in the bombing, but this did not mean it was not involved.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ10654 ♡93 ◇AK6 ♣86
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?
A. — You have a one spade overcall, and that's the bid you should make. You are not quite good enough to double and then bid spades, especially since you are not really prepared to play in another suit. An overcall need not deny a pretty good hand.

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A105 ♡QJ7 ◇J63 ♣QJ92
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ◇	Dble	1 NT	?

What action do you take?
A. — Something doesn't quite add up here. Partner should have a near opening bid for his vulnerable takeout double, you have 11 HCP and both opponents are bidding! You must tell partner that this is your hand, and the way to accomplish that is to double.

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ654 ♡Q5 ◇Q7 ♣AK83
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	?	

What action do you take?
A. — You started a cue-bidding sequence, giving partner the chance to cue-bid a red ace in response. When he chose not to do so, you can only trust him and presume that either your side is missing both red aces or partner has decided that his hand is not suitable for slam purposes. Pass.

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ1063 ♡AQ54 ◇7 ♣AQ3
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	?	

What action do you take?
A. — Had North not been a passed hand, his leap to four spades would have been preemptive and you would have passed. As a passed hand, however, it shows a good hand, almost the equivalent of an opening bid. No matter what he holds, you should have excellent play for slam, and we suggest you get there quickly — by jumping to six spades.

Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ ♡AKJ92 ◇AQ6 ♣AKJ
The bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
2 ♡	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ◇	Pass
?			

What do you bid now?
A. — Partner can't have too much — after all, he didn't respond to your demand bid with three diamonds. However, even if he has nothing more than six diamonds to the king, the small slam should be virtually a laydown. Bid six diamonds.

Q.6 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A10652 ♡7 ◇A854 ♣762
The bidding has proceeded:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Dble	Pass	?

What action do you take?
A. — At this vulnerability, it is tempting to convert partner's takeout double to penalties by passing. Resist! You have the wrong trump holding for that action because you are sitting under declarer. For the moment be content to simply bid two diamonds.

COLUMN

4 Bangladeshis Jailed for raping

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladesh court sentenced four men to 14 years hard labour in prison for gang-raping a teenage girl as political and social leaders urged harsher punishment for rapists. Court sources said the four men picked up the girl as she was returning home from a cinema in northern Rajbari district in April last year and raped her for a whole night. Political and social leaders expressed concern at what they said was a spate of crimes including gang-rape and torture of women for dowry. They issued statements calling on the government to impose harsher punishment on those found guilty of rape and murder.

Nude pictures of Miss Malaysia revealed

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A former receptionist who was chosen Miss Malaysia last month says she is determined to keep her title even though nude pictures of her have been circulated. "I have all the qualities and posing for the photographs does not make me a lesser person," Selina Perera, 19, said in an interview with a local newspaper which received copies of the pictures by post. She said the pictures were taken last year by her former lover and that they were being distributed by his girlfriend. Perera said she was determined to represent Malaysia at a Miss Asia and Pacific quest beauty contest despite a possible uproar in coming weeks over her posing in the nude.

Fire destroys Harrods offices

LONDON (R) — Fire engulfed part of Harrods, London's well-known department store, destroying an office on the top floor, firemen said. A spokesman for the fire brigade said flames swept through about one tenth of the top floor of the five-storey building in fashionable Knightsbridge before being brought under control. The store was not open at the time of the blaze and no one was injured. Police said the cause of the fire was not known.

'Sneak killer' scare sends up gun sales

LOS ANGELES (R) — Worried Los Angeles residents are buying guns and taking shooting lessons to protect themselves against a "sneak killer" believed to have murdered up to 13 people this year, police has said. "With the heightened awareness and concern, I think it is possible some homeowner may blow him away (kill him)," police Sheriff Sherman Block told reporters. The killer, described as a curly-haired man with stained teeth, may also have attacked 17 other people in the Los Angeles area, police say. A task force of 25 detectives, aided by local police forces who have taken officers from office jobs to strengthen street patrols, is taking part in the biggest Los Angeles murder hunt since the Hillside Strangler case of 1977, in which two men were eventually convicted of killing 10 young women. The "sneak killer" enters homes through unlocked doors or windows before dawn and attacks the occupants while they sleep. "People are worried because this guy is going into their houses," a police sergeant said. "This guy is spooky."

Row ends on eve of Edinburgh Festival

EDINBURGH (R) — A bitter row between organisers of one the world's most prestigious cultural events and a socialist city council appears to have calmed down in time for the opening of the 39th Edinburgh International Festival. Relations between the festival establishment and the Labour party-controlled council in Scotland's capital city have been tense at best since the leftists came to power in May 1984. Labour leader Alex Ward maintains that the annual event, featuring the cream of musical and dramatic talent, should be less elitist, less the domain of what he calls the "Edinbourgeoisie". As the festival's largest financial backer, the council last spring threatened to cut off the city's £600,000 ($810,000) grant and bar use of three of its theatres if festival control were not "democratised". Director Frank Dunlop last month angrily told reporters the renowned gathering could not "go on being kicked around like a football" and raised the possibility of moving it elsewhere.